



Winter 2020

Volume 28, Number 4



New Thoughts on Nova Eborac Die States (See Page 21.)

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Numismatic Expert Kevin Vinton Joins Stack's Bowers Galleries



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Stack's Bowers Galleries ("SBG") is pleased to announce that Kevin Vinton, respected expert, dealer and auctioneer in United States colonial coinage and early federal copper will be joining the firm. Beginning in January 2021, Vinton will bring over a decade of full-time experience in the numismatic business to Stack's Bowers Galleries, with his base to be their New York City gallery. He will focus his efforts on assisting collectors as they build and/or sell their holdings, along with writing, cataloging, and assisting with marketing.

Vinton is a life member of the American Numismatic Association, Early American Coppers, the Colonial Coin Collectors Club and many other organizations. He is an instructor on early American copper coins at the ANA Summer Seminar and has cataloged the annual Early American Coppers auction since 2015. In addition, he is an authority on counterfeit detection.

He is a contributor to *A Guide Book of United States Coins* and to the *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins*. As an author he has won awards for articles published in *The Numismatist* and the *Penny-Wise* journal.

Stack's Bowers Galleries President Brian Kendrella commented: "The addition of Kevin to the numismatic dream team at Stack's Bowers Galleries confirms and enhances our many decades long dedication to the field of early American numismatics. I have observed Kevin's role in this market for years, and have heard consistently great things about him from mutual clients. It was a natural fit to bring him on board, and I and the entire SBG family are excited to work with him."

Vinton joins the firm's team of elite numismatists led by world renowned experts Q. David Bowers, Harvey G. Stack, Greg Roberts, and Lawrence R. Stack. Kevin can be reached by phone at 646-443-5513 or by email at kvinton@StacksBowers.com.

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The C4 Newsletter

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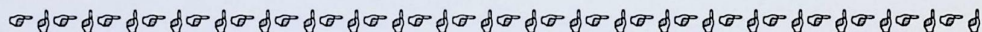


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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Craig McDonald)

This is my inaugural (pun intended) President's Corner column as the new President of C4. I would like to thank everyone who cast their ballot for me. It was an honor to serve as VP under Jack Howes. I, along with the rest of your elected Officers, look forward to serving the membership of C4.

Before I go any further, I know that many of us are still shocked and saddened by the sudden passing, on Thanksgiving Day, of long time C4 member and friend to many of us, Clem Schettino. Clem was a fixture at C4 Conventions, and many of his exploits are the stuff of legend. Others have submitted their remembrances of Clem, which you can read further into the Newsletter.

For those who may not know me, let me give a brief introduction to myself. I am 62 years old, and was born and raised just outside of Allentown, Pennsylvania. We currently live in Frisco, Texas, about 30 miles north of Dallas. My wife, Rebecca, and I moved to Texas back in 1997 related to my job at that time. We just celebrated our 39th wedding anniversary in December. I retired a few years ago after just over 38 years in the IT industry.

I have collected coins since I was 12 or 13, my interest waning somewhat in my mid to late teens, but rekindling in the early 1980s. I joined EAC in 1982, and was one of the founding members of C4 in 1993. In 2010 I became the Regional. In 2018 I was elected National VP under then newly elected President, Jack Howes.

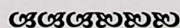
So what are some of my thoughts and ideas for C4, going forward?

1. As is well touted throughout the entire coin collecting hobby, we must attract younger people into the hobby in general and ideally into the area of Colonials. While I don't have any hard data, if I had to guess from meeting many of our members over the years, the average age in this club probably hovers around 60...perhaps mid to late 50s, but I think you get my point. We jokingly say that if no new blood enters the hobby, who will buy our coins when we decide to sell? But maybe it's not completely a joke after all?
2. We need to increase C4's online presence. Today's world is digital. The current generation shops online, communicate with each other online, get their news online, watches TV and movies online, reads books online, listens to music online, etc., etc. Yes, C4 has a website, but it is probably not utilized to its full potential. I want to begin using it to communicate things going on within the Club on a more regular basis than reading about them in the quarterly Newsletter. If you've never checked out the web site, please do so at: www.ColonialCoins.org. If you have ideas for things you'd like to see on the site, drop me or any of your elected officers a note.
3. Getting C4 "out there" may also require setting up an online presence via an outlet like Facebook, or any of the myriad other portals. Online privacy is a major concern with any of these online portals, so any decision will have to take that into serious consideration.

4. One facet of increasing our online presence was just put to the test with our virtual Convention, and the online presentations via ZOOM. Comments received were resoundingly positive. See Jim Glickman's notice in the Newsletter about how to view the videos if you missed the live presentations. Broadcasting the presentations was actually something that had been in discussion even before COVID turned the world upside down, but due to cancellation of the Whitman show and our Convention, it became a reality. See Jack's write-up elsewhere in this issue about how it all came about. We plan to continue these live broadcasts even after we can once again gather together...hopefully in Baltimore in November 2021!
5. A new Google "Colonial Coins" group has replaced the now defunct Yahoo group. If you were a member of the Yahoo group you should have automatically been moved over to the new Google group, and started receiving emails from it already. If you don't believe you were moved over, or if you'd like to join the new Google group anew, see Jeff Rock's blurb elsewhere in this issue on how to join. As with the old Yahoo group, it will hopefully become the forum for communication between collectors for all things Colonial.
6. Part of getting C4's name out there could also be accomplished by increasing our presence at major coin shows around the country. I would like to possibly develop a loanable "travelling show kit" to be used to set up a C4 table at coin shows. I'd like to see our Regional VPs take the lead in doing this in their regions when significant shows are held. Understandably, because of the geographical spread of some of our regions, it's not always feasible for a Regional VP to personally attend a major show in their region, so if anyone would wish to take the lead in setting up at a show, please do not hesitate to volunteer.
7. And lastly, I have some thoughts and ideas regarding the Newsletter. First off, the content of our Newsletter is second to none in the hobby, and each of our Editors, Will Nipper currently serving in that role, has done an absolutely outstanding job. Nothing has to change there. However, there are some issues we should address going forward. Among these are the costs of publication and distribution, and the format of publication. "Format" includes both the perennial bound v. non-bound discussion, and possibly offering the Newsletter in an electronic format for those who would prefer it so. As I mentioned back in point #2, today's generation lives online, so if we want to reach them we need to meet them where they live.

But enough from me for now...on to the rest of the Newsletter. Happy reading !!

Sincerely,
Craig McDonald



MINUTES OF THE C4 GENERAL MEETING

November 21, 2020 (2PM EST) – Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

In Attendance: Jack Howes, Leo Shane, Wayne Shelby, Chris McDowell, Mitch Mitchell, Jim Glickman, Craig McDonald, Gregory Field, Mike Wierzbza, Bruce Smith, Ray Williams, Mark Vitunic, Phil Mossman, Roger Moore, Julia Casey, (Joe D.), John Bolger, Nike Packard, Kent Sims, Roger Siboni, Jesse Kraft, Jay Knipe

President Jack Howes opened the meeting by noting a discrepancy in published start times; some members said they received notice that the meeting was to begin at 2 PM, EST, while others indicated receiving an email indicating a 3 PM EST start time. [Post-meeting note: Craig determined that the start time confusion arose from an issue with ZOOM scheduling and will be watched for when scheduling future meetings.] Jack then introduced the new Board members: President Craig McDonald, Vice-President Chris McDowell and Region 6 VP Bruce Smith. All other members were re-elected. The 2-year terms of all members officially begin 11/21/2020. Craig McDonald proceeded to chair the meeting.

C4 Convention Summary: The success of the virtual convention was noted with thanks given to the 3 members who had served as Education chairs this year- Leo Shane, Chris McDowell and Jim Glickman (current chair). A recap of the events was given: Q. David Bowers Award (plaque) to Gary Trudgen, three E.P. Neuman Lectures (R. Moore, D. Menchell, John Kraljevich) and three open forum lectures (Jeff Rock, Jim Glickman, Leo Shane). Jim Glickman said that all 6 speakers had worked through their presentations and the ZOOM process with Lianna Sperber. All agreed that then process had worked well; it was noted that attendance was about 40-50 min. for each presentation. The videos of the talks will initially be placed on the C4 website, and eventually uploaded to the NNP. Chris McDowell indicated that Lianna has been paid one-half (\$750) of her contract fee. If the 2021 convention is a “live” event, it was suggested that streaming of presentations still be conducted, for the benefit of those not attending. Lianna will work on this process.

C4 Library (Leo Shane): Leo continues to update the Library holdings and publish the inventory list as appropriate in the C4 Newsletter. He indicated there was a decrease in borrowing in 2020, which may reflect increased utilization of the NNP.

Publications Committee: At their 11/13/20 meeting, the Committee approved publication of new the Machin’s book, authored by Gary Trudgen, Jim Rosen and Jack Howes. The book is currently with the publisher (Sheridan) to be printed soon, and possibly shipped to the distributors in January 2021. This will be the first C4 book distributed by both Charles Davis and David Fanning. The other C4 book in preparation (covering CT coppers) by Randy Clark is expected to publish in 2021. A suggestion was made (Ray Williams) that C4 books be submitted to the NLG for award consideration. Chris McDowell (NLG member) indicated that this can easily be done.

Treasurers Report: Craig provided the report in Charlie’s absence referring to a report covering income and expenses through 11/9/20. [Post-meeting Note: Charlie has since provided the most current report covering income and expenses through 11/20/20.] According to this current report, the total 2020 YTD income is \$35,570.88, with expenses of \$32,228.99. Total club assets stand at \$122,554.07, comparable to previous years. As in other years, the major income sources

were dues, book sale receipts and the SBG auction payment, while major expenses were the newsletter and book publishing expenses. A major drop in convention expenses was noted, as expected due to the virtual convention. The SBG payment from the 2020 auction was \$6,625.00 (base amount). With regards to the SBG contract, Jack noted that it has now expired (after the November auction) and will need to be renewed in 2021. Craig will initiate this process. Following some discussion, it was agreed that the new contract should clearly specify, and indicate on the catalog, which of the November auctions are associated with C4.

C4 Newsletter: Craig indicated that the next Newsletter will be published in January. The election results and meeting minutes will be published. It was hoped that a write-up covering the results of significant recent sales (Partrick Connecticut, E Pluribus Unum) would also be included.

New Colonial Google Group: Craig informed the Board that the existing Yahoo C4 group (about 450 members) will cease operating on 12/15/2020. As a replacement, a colonial Google group has been formed, and will be advertised and members solicited. Several ideas about how best to utilize the group were discussed (getting members to indicate their interests, provide C4 with a networking ability within the colonial community, etc.). [Post-meeting note: Jeff Rock has begun transferring the existing members of the Yahoo Group to the Google Group.]

Other Business: A general discussion of how to generate greater interest in C4 and promote colonial collecting within the wider hobby was held. Many ideas on how to increase publicity for C4 activities (in numismatic publications, of C4 books by distributors, indirectly through posting on the Google group site, promoting C4 by Regional VPs at coin shows) as well as what new activities C4 could conduct were discussed. In the latter category it was generally felt that holding periodic ZOOM broadcasts on colonial topics was a valuable untapped resource. The upcoming Symposium on NJ Coppers planned for April 2021 was raised as an excellent example of how C4 could conduct future ZOOM presentations. Other ideas covering ways that C4 could “publicize” itself, either on the national (table at large coin shows, alone or shared with EAC, having material for hand-outs, etc.) or the regional level (tables at local shows with hand-outs) were discussed. Additionally, Regional VPs could engage the current membership through a variety of ways (newsletters, informal meetings-ZOOM or in person, lists of members’ collecting interests, etc.). The broad topic of promoting C4 by publicizing activities and engagement of collectors will be discussed throughout the coming year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM (EST).

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Knipe, C4 Secretary

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## **C4 Announces Creation of *The Sydney F. Martin Numismatic Publication Award***

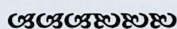
The C4 Board of Directors is pleased to announce creation of the *Sydney F. Martin Numismatic Publication Award*.

This award joins the *Eric P. Newman Memorial Lectureship Series* presentations and the *Q. David Bowers Award for Excellence in Numismatic Research* in recognizing the work of individuals for their contributions to the field of Colonial and Early US coinages.

This award will be presented to authors of books published through C4, and at the Board's discretion can also be presented to authors of works published outside of C4.

The primary purpose of the award will be to recognize the work and its contribution to the dissemination of numismatic knowledge of Colonial and Early US numismatics.

Your Board hopes this award, in some small way, recognizes and honors Syd's outstanding contributions via his four published books, all of which have become the standard references on their respective series, many of which previously lacked a concise and recognized standard reference.



## **GOING VIRTUAL**

(Jack Howes)

As everyone reading this should know, C4 did not have an in-person convention this past fall. COVID cancelled the Baltimore show and C4 put on a series of virtual presentations. Planning for this event started last summer when we became pretty sure the Baltimore Whitman show would be canceled. Zoom turned out to be software we chose to use for these virtual sessions. But none of us were particularly well versed in Zoom use. So, we looked for help. Lianna Spurrier had worked with the club before in preparing a series of videos that are now available on our web site about colonial state coinages. She had done this work as a student and we had invited her to attend the fall 2020 show offering to pay her way but that also went by the boards. Lianna is now part of a startup numismatic marketing company and we asked for a quote to help organize and run our virtual educational presentations. From all the feedback this was money well invested. The videos are now on our website and anyone can view them. Lianna worked with each presenter on their slides, made sure of the availability of each presenter, and then ran the webinars. Even if we have a real convention in 2021, we are likely to record the presentations and get them on the website so many more members can view them. Please let us know what you think.



Lianna Spurrier: [CoinMediabyLianna.com](http://CoinMediabyLianna.com)  
Creative Director for Numismatic Marketing:  
[NumisMaticmarketing.com](http://NumisMaticmarketing.com)

Lianna started collecting coins over 10 years ago, and started working in the field professionally in 2018. She has a bachelor's degree in Convergent Media with a minor in Spanish and Visual Communication.



## Clement Schettino (1953-2020) Remembering a Great Friend and Collector

(Mike Wierzba)

It was with great sadness that I learned on Thanksgiving Day of the passing of my dear friend, numismatist Clem Schettino. With so many great memories of our adventures together, I struggled, wondering how I could even begin to explain the impact Clem had on my, and so many others', lives. And as it sometimes happens, and only with the truly great friends, your mourning is interrupted by laughter when you find yourself reliving the friendship from the very beginning...



We were at the Cincinnati EAC Convention and those who attended will remember the "interesting" hotel in Kentucky (not Ohio) designed like a castle. The party didn't end after the Thursday night EAC reception, and Clem was on a mission to drain every last drop of leftover beer from the kegs. Clem scoured the near-empty room for anything and anyone to save the beer. He filled five pitchers to the absolute brim and handed me, a 15-year-old kid, two. We tiptoed through the hotel halls trying not to draw attention, but laughing way too hard and certainly too loud as Clem tried to balance three full pitchers of beer. Then, a security guard wisely informed us that I, a minor, probably shouldn't be helping appropriate alcohol. Undeterred, Clem continued onward, now sloppily carrying all five pitchers, sloshing beer all over himself as he pushed forward. Lesser men would have made two trips, but Clem began belting '*Sunday Bloody Sunday*' at the top of his lungs in defiance, arriving at his hotel room a hero to the small, but thirsty, after-convention party he'd invited. That was the beginning of our great friendship, but the end of kegs at EAC Conventions.

Clem was a founding member of C4, at that time specializing in New Jersey Coppers, Fugios, and several other colonial series. Many people may not know that during the first C4 Convention auction, the Fugio collection (auctioned after John Griffie's NJ coppers) was Clem's.

In the years to follow, Clem became a pioneer in the study of British and Irish counterfeit halfpennies and farthings, undertaking early serious work on creating a collecting system for these understudied pieces. Anyone who understood Clem as a collector realized that when he started researching a new series, he went ALL the way. Clem's larger-than-life personality belied a highly organized collector with endless enthusiasm for research. During his study, Clem amassed one of the finest collections ever assembled, discovering and obtaining many new and unique varieties, and acquired thousands of pieces.

Clem had three standout priorities in his life, coins coming in a distant third. First and foremost, he was a dedicated family man. He absolutely adored his loving wife Lynn and his sons Alex and Angelo, and they were often by his side at coin shows across the country. Second to that, his friends and the coin community.



Clem truly loved coin conventions and was always excited and happy before a show, knowing he would soon be right in his element. If you needed him afterward, you knew to check the hotel lounge, where he would be celebrating the day, taking upon himself the responsibility to ensure everyone around him was having the best time they could possibly have. Clem loved life and had a way of bringing a smile to everyone's face, telling jokes (some even at his own expense), stories, or reassuring someone for the second time in twenty minutes that he loved the new coin they just bought. Nobody cared more about his fellow collectors than Clem, and he is responsible for happily mentoring and inspiring many C4 members active today. He was generous and delighted to share his knowledge and welcomed anyone that shared the passion, even me as a lost teenager that night at the Cincinnati EAC Convention when he readily adopted me into a community that has since defined my life. Clem was my loyal and passionate friend who never had a bad thing to say about anyone he cared about which is one of the best qualities I learned from him.

Clem left us with many stories I would love to include here, which would take up hundreds of pages, and all of them are worthy of print. But almost all C4 and EAC members have a story, or a dozen, to tell because everyone who spent time with Clem emerged a better collector and a better person. His name and memory will never be forgotten in the collecting circles, and I look forward to future nights at the lounge after a long day on the bourse, going around the room, sharing stories and memories of Clem for many years to come. Rest in peace my friend, you are remembered dearly for taking coins and your dedication to your family seriously, but wisely not taking life too seriously, enjoying all it had to offer and thus, shaping all of us for the better.

### **(Jeff Rock)**

I've always found it easy to write; sometimes just a title will pop in my head and an article will soon follow. Fingers poised above keyboard, and off they go. Sure, there will be changes, revisions, additions, and the like, but the main part of what I want to put on paper is there. Until now. I have typed up over two dozen one-page articles about Clem Schettino, and they all lacked something and were sent to the trash can. This is, by far, the most difficult thing I've had to write, and I finally figured out why. If you knew Clem, then nothing more needs to be said about him other than how we will all miss him. If you didn't know Clem, then the loss is yours and no words on a page can ever truly capture the man, and you wouldn't believe half the stories even if we put them all into print.

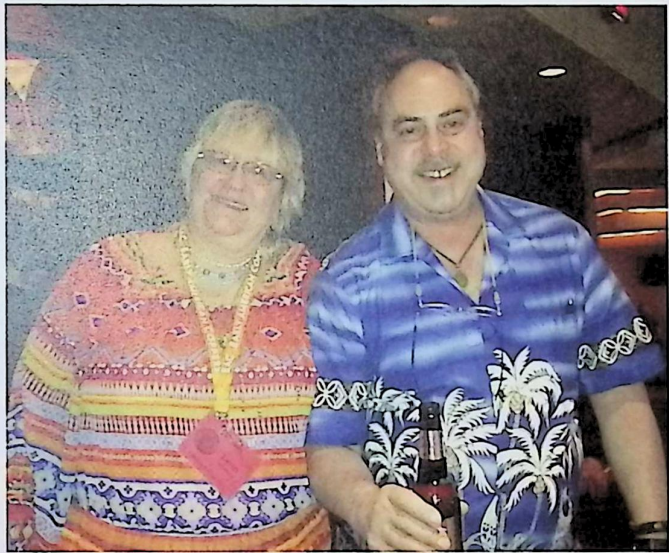
I've known Clem Schettino over 30 years. We had an interest in the same stuff, we collected the same stuff, we competed for the same stuff. Sometimes I would outbid him on something and he would be the first to say "good coin." More often than not he would outbid me, because like everything he did in life, he did coins all-in. If a cool counterfeit came up on eBay he wasn't afraid to put in a 4-figure bid on what the rest of us thought was a 3-figure coin and pay whatever it cost to buy. More often than not he was right. He knew something about the coin that the rest of us failed to see, whether it was a condition rarity, an interesting die state, or a coin that linked two different counterfeit families together in a surprising way. Clem wrote no books, and only a couple articles, yet one would be very wrong to assume that meant he didn't know much about a topic; Clem was usually one of the smartest people in the room, even when that room contained experts and scholars, and those experts knew it too. Even though our hobby is fairly



egalitarian, Clem was that rare person who could call the richest or wisest collectors and know that not only would they pick up the phone, they would be happy to talk with him for hours.

You always knew when Clem was in the room. He was loud, but the loudness was usually the laughter of whoever was hanging around him. Clem had the rare ability to laugh at himself, an even rarer gift in a hobby where too many take themselves too seriously. To Clem, coins were FUN, to be enjoyed and shared, and that was how Clem viewed life in general. Clem had some rough patches, as does every life, but they never got him down for long. He wrung every drop out of life and loved it all. His love for his family was total and unquestioned. His love for his friends was the same.

The group of people I knew when I first started out in this hobby has grown smaller and smaller with each passing year. Some were people I saw only once or twice a year at a show, others were very close friends. Each one of those losses hurt, however, and with each one gone, the hobby seems to become a little less enjoyable. Clem was one of a handful whose absence I will feel for the rest of my own life, and I suspect it will be the same for everyone who knew him. There will be no one to fill his shoes. Clem was unique, and our lives were the better for having him in it. We'll raise a toast to you in Baltimore, my friend. You may be gone, but you will never be forgotten.



**(John Kraljevich)**

If you were charged with casting a Broadway production about the Founders exclusively from the ranks of C4 members, Clem would have been Sam Adams or Paul Revere. That workingman's Boston accent would have sold the character immediately. The portly belly, graceless gait, and unforgettable toothy grin would have endeared him to the audience and helped him steal every scene.

Clement V. Schettino did that on every real-life stage he ever walked onto. He wasn't just a character. That word is used euphemistically in these parts to cover all sorts of weirdness. Clem wasn't all that weird; Clem was just an original. He was totally himself, incorrigibly authentic whether swilling beer in a \$35 hotel room crowded with rapscallions or standing at a swanky mahogany bar letting someone buy him a drink that cost damn near as much.

It's impossible to describe Clem. Clem was a collector, first and foremost. He loved this stuff. He loved having it. He loved finding it, sure, but he loved owning it. He loved talking about coins, about rips, about fish stories involving the deal that nearly was but got away. He knew he



knew as much as those far wealthier and better lettered than him. Clem mused to me more than once, confiding in a dago welder's son with whom he felt a kinship that he couldn't believe that someone like him would not only end up being friends with doctors and lawyers and titans of industry, but that they were the ones asking him for information or a shot at a coin in his collection.

Clem loved his friends. He'd hug me, call me Jawunny in that bottle-it-and-sell-it accent, and tell me he loved me. He loved talking about his friends, his frenemies, and the late and lamented. He'd cuss and swear and gesticulate while talking about the people he knew and had known. But as much as he loved his friends, he loved his family more. He was so proud of Alex and Angelo, so eager to share Angelo's joys and successes, Alex's brilliance and how much he loved his brother. And he knew Lynn was a saint for putting up with him and his foibles, keeping a family with three overgrown boys together with patience and humor and grace. I don't know how often he told Lynn he appreciated her, but his friends sure knew.

I've known Clem for more than 25 years. Do the math. I was a teenager, interested in the same odd back alleys of colonial numismatics, drawn to his eagerness, looking forward to the day I was old enough to join one of these poker games whose late hours meant Clem never wasted a nickel on an early bird badge. I watched Clem grow from an exuberant collector to a pioneering numismatist to a proud expert. His knowledge of circulating counterfeit British halfpence earned him a legacy, not only for his expertise but the way he damn near single handedly created a new field of study by sheer force of will. He knew New Jerseys, Fugios, cobs and Spanish colonials, and more. Hell, he and I once bought an old keg together that ended up in a museum.

Clem was a creature I got to know because I went to coin shows and so did he. Later, I'd see him at auctions or at my apartment in New York or at friends' social gatherings, but Clem's natural habit was coin shows. Small ones in New England, where I'd drive down from Wolfeboro and see a familiar face ambling in. Big ones in Baltimore and Orlando and Boston too. It breaks my heart to lose Clem. The news made me sob at my kitchen table like I haven't sobbed in a long time. But it also breaks my heart that in whatever form our weird little world takes after 2020, as fewer folks attend coin shows and some swear off them completely, plenty of folks will never get to meet a Clem.

If you never met him, you missed out. He's gone and there will never be another. Yet our collegial arena, our bizarre barnyard of creatures great and small, is full of big personalities, great people with warm hearts, that you'll never get to know at a computer. A burger and a beer with Clem isn't the same as a Facebook post. A smoke break on the sidewalk will never compare to an email. Clem—and all the Clems—can only be experienced in person, gonzo and real and bewildering and brilliant. With Clem's passing, the golden age of my coin show life seems diminished, with little hope of regaining its brilliance. I hope the next guy in line takes the time to meet the next Clem and make himself a lifelong friend. Our marquee is down a bulb, and it's never getting replaced.

The worst part of being the kid in this business is seeing my friends die. The best part is getting to have had such great friends for so long.

So long, Clem.



**Clememory (Bob Metzger)**

In a normal year my annual journey to Baltimore in November for the C4 Convention and Whitman Coin Show would have been highlighted by spending a good chunk of time with Clem, sharing laughs, teasing each other about marked prices, politics, and lots more, while just overall having a lot of fun together. But as we know, 2020 has not been normal in any way. The news of Clem's sudden and unexpected death on Thanksgiving has provided me with yet more evidence of 2020's often tragic craziness.

Clem and I were usually about as far apart in our politics as we typically were on the marked prices on his envelopes (and I hasten to say that I am sure he would laugh heartily upon reading that). Yet, in both arenas, we were able to respectfully "agree to disagree," and to frequently come to an agreement that brought smiles to both our faces.

Each November, in Baltimore, at his bourse table, I'd meticulously go through his many boxes of stuff, asking questions, commenting, sharing ideas, and sorting selected items into three basic piles: (1) ones I really want, and we're close on price, (2) ones I want if we can close the price gap significantly, and (3) I'm almost surely dreaming, but it will be fun to try. And I'd bring my own dupes to try to swap, so he could tease me and dicker about mine as well.

And when Clem needed a break from his table, if I was within earshot, or actively digging through his boxes, he'd leave me "in charge" of his table. We agreed that I'd give him a call if anyone wanted to try to strike a deal on something. And meanwhile, I could continue to look through his stuff and make my little piles. He might be gone for a half hour; he might be gone for two hours. When he returned, he'd always thank me for watching his table, and ask me how my hunt through his stuff was going.

I'd usually make a joke that my answer would depend on whether any beer had been consumed during his break. And again, we'd share a hearty laugh. And then we'd deal. I was always humbled by knowing that he trusted me so completely that he felt comfortable leaving me "in charge." And I always appreciated how willing he was to share his knowledge and listen to my wild ideas. Consequently, I always was willing to "stretch" a little more on a price negotiation, attempting to factor in some bit of monetary value for his open sharing of knowledge and expertise with me as I expanded my interests beyond my comfort zone. We were, in a word, friends.

R.I.P., buddy. I already miss you!

**(Jim Glickman)**

I was very saddened to hear of Clem's passing. I had just spent time with him (outside) in mid-October, and he was as full of life as ever that day. I'm glad I had that final time with him, the last of many coin visits to his house in Saugus, MA over the past 17 years or so. Clem was the first person to get me into colonials, and his enthusiasm was infectious. He would meet up with Frank McGrath after local shows and he would invite me along, which was a treat for a newbie and made Clem happy to see a new collector blossom. He persuaded me to join C4 and to come to the conventions, then occurring in Boston. Trips to his house would last hours past the time I thought it would, as we both loved to talk coins, look at my recent purchases, and view coins or images of



coins he had to show me, followed by lunch at one of his favorite area restaurants (my favorite: "The Tides" overlooking the ocean in nearby Nahant). Not once did I leave his house without some new purchase(s) (including from my last visit), and every single coin or book from him is a treasured part of my collection. And for several years we would leave the Baltimore show together, sometimes with Mike Wierzbowski and others too, to eat at a certain restaurant at the airport and fly home together.

Perhaps my most memorable experience with him was driving together to and from Roger Siboni's barbeque, staying at the worst hotel I have ever (and will ever) stay in. Being with Clem was always fun, and the time flew by. He was a great guy with a big heart and a bigger personality. And I soon discovered the other side of Clem: a serious, intense and very organized researcher who had an uncommonly sharp memory and a very sharp head for coins. He liked to say that he would "research the snot" out of a new coin. He gave me an unpublished photographic book of his New Jersey collection, and I regularly refer to it. I learned a lot from him about collecting colonials, forming a numismatic library, how to approach coin shows, and more. He has truly influenced how and what I collect. Rest in peace, Clem, you will be greatly missed.

#### **(David Cornell)**

Clem was my friend. Over the last 35 or so years, we would hang out at coin shows, and sometimes we would share a hotel room. Often, we would look at and talk about our coins; more often, we would drink beer with our friends late into the night.

Clem was generous with his time, and his knowledge of colonial coins, with advanced and beginning collectors alike. He was a patient teacher and always the mentor, especially regarding contemporary counterfeits.

He was passionate about his collecting, and his other interests. He loved his family, and his friends. My heart hurts that he is gone. Clem was my friend.



#### **(Chris McDowell)**

I rec'd a text yesterday about Clem's death. It saddens me greatly. I just wish to add to the choirs of people commenting on him. Clem was the first colonial dealer I ever purchased a Connecticut from. I had known him for all of 45 minutes when he asked me to watch his table for what I thought was a short restroom break at the Drawbridge Inn in KY. Over an hour later, Clem finally returned with a beer in a paper bag for me. From that day on we were friends. I enjoyed Clem very much. I will miss him calling me in that thick accent of his. I will also miss the stories

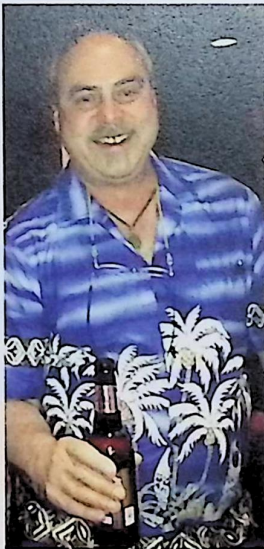


of his smoking in places that it was clearly impermissible to smoke and seeking my legal advice on his imagined lawsuits against the hotel that was charging him extra. When I told him once that he had no case against the hotel, he walked off disappointed. When I asked where he was going, he told me he was going to go smoke in the hotel elevator since they could not fine there—as far as I know he did just that. Clem burnt the candle at both ends. A life joyfully lived. One must admire a man who dances to his own drummer. I think David Palmer has the best Clem stories, none of which are suitable for publication. I know that the C4 convention will not be as much fun for me without Clem.

(Mike Demling)

# Clem Schettino

*What Can I Say About Clem ?*



Clem was a very special person. Everyone that knew him has a story. The EAC and C4 conventions won't be the same without him.

Clem... we will miss you my friend. You may be gone but you will live on in the mind and hearts of all that knew you.

He's UNIQUE a real R9

One of a kind A Character  
Funny - A real Joker

Very Smart / Knowledgeable

Conversationalist SPECIAL

*Always willing to help*

REALLY LIKES BEER

CARING KIND

Colonial Copper Specialist

A Nut True Collector

*Fun to be around* HAPPY

*Always has a Smile*

Big Heart



*Most of all I'm proud to  
say Clem was my Friend. A  
friend that will be missed.*



Mike



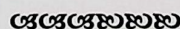
**(Roger Moore)**

A sad day for our hobby, and we have had too many sad days over the recent past. I am so sorry to lose Clem. Many of my coins have his pedigree. I remember going to his room after the C4 auctions with a large noisy group and bringing my bottle of single malt scotch with me to share along with the other things. Ringo was often sharing a room with him or adjoining his. He at one time was barred from the hotel due to late night noise, and smoke pouring out of his non-smoking rooms!! However, he and Byron were the two that really got the ball rolling on counterfeit coppers. Without them we would still be working off of Anton/Kesse. I hope he rests in peace and that his family's grief is brief.

**(Doris Black)**

Being unique was Clem's charm. He was always sweet to me and made me laugh. I can't really recall any specific thing Clem did that made me laugh. I only know how he made me feel—like life was good. He was always celebrating, in one way or another. He was funny. Naturally so. Clem being Clem was funny. And he supplied us all with endless fodder which entertained us immensely. Clem was always laughing at himself too. He made other people feel good by sharing his humor, his kindness, and his hospitality. For example, last year I had a flight with a stop-over in Boston. Out of the blue Clem offered to drive to Boston to meet up for drinks and show me around. That's the kind of man he was—big hearted. He clearly loved his kids, spoke about them all the time and was SO very proud of them. I hope they know. One of the things I admired most about Clem was how he lived every day as if it was his last. He went for the gusto. No holding back. Coin shows won't be the same without Clem. A life too short. I will miss him.

**The Famous “Clem Head”**





## CLUES ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND REPRINTS OF 1750 AND 1755

David D. Gladfelter

The colony of Rhode Island emitted a slew of 47 issues of bills of credit from 1710 until achieving statehood in 1776. Plates exist for bills issued in 1737, 1738 and 1740 and reprints have been made from them. The plate used to print some of the denominations issued in 1750 and reissued in 1755 existed as late as 1857 when a single denomination was then reprinted. Brief notes found on back of one such reprint specimen provide clues about when and where it was made.

As the colony's official printer from 1736 until her death in 1763, Ann Smith Franklin<sup>1</sup> may have played a role in the production of these issues of bills, although the actual engraving was probably done pursuant to outside contract. The engraving and printing of other issues during her tenure has been ascribed to particular engravers, including Samuel Vernon Sr., Samuel Vernon Jr., William Claggett and John Coddington.

The 1750 and 1755 originals had printed backs, but this reprint specimen (Figure 1) is uniface. Examination shows traces of adjacent bills at the top and right, indicating that the plate originally contained impressions of other denominations. The reprint shows deterioration in the condition of the plate: There is evidence of verdigris along the right side and particularly by the words "Colony of", "Treasury", "Assembly", "Order of", the date 1750 and the lower right £4 value symbol; there is a horizontal injury to the plate across the center; there is a rough spot below the words "One Ounce" resulting in an ink smudge. If similar or even worse damage had occurred to parts of the then-century-old plate containing images of other denominations, that could explain why those other images had not been reprinted. Or those damaged parts of the plate might have been cut away for reuse during the intervening years to meet a demand for copper.

On the back is the exact date July 15, 1857, written in pencil. Below it is the pencil signature of James T. Almy, New Bedford (a Massachusetts town just east of the Rhode Island border). Although the signature is in a different handwriting from the date, they both appear to refer to the time and place of printing of the specimen. What else might the date refer to?

As for Almy, he is listed on page 53 of the 1856 New Bedford directory as a "jeweller and engraver" working at 11 Purchase St. and residing at 94 Third St. That occupation makes Almy a likely candidate for printer of the specimen; at the very least, it would have passed through his hands close to the time of its printing.

Above these pencil inscriptions appear four lines in ink: "Presented by,/ L. H. Bradford./ Old plate is extant in/ New Bedford."

Lodowick Harrington Bradford (1820-1885) was a well-known engraver and lithographer in Boston. From 1854 to 1859 he headed the firm of L. H. Bradford & Co.<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2, advertisement

<sup>1</sup> She was the widow of James Franklin and the sister-in-law of Benjamin Franklin. *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 1 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1959,) p. lix.

<sup>2</sup> George C. Groce and David H. Wallace, *The New-York Historical Society's Dictionary of Artists in America, 1564-1860* (New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1957,) p. 75.



appearing in the Boston Almanac for 1857). It appears that this specimen passed into Bradford's hands close in time to 1857, likely directly from his fellow tradesman Almy, and that he would have learned directly from Almy about the existence of the plate and its then current location.

When it was that Bradford "presented" the specimen, and to whom he presented it, are currently unknown.

The specimen appears to be scarce but is probably not unique. John W. Haseltine knew of it in 1872 when he published his catalog, *Description of the Paper Money Issued by the Continental Congress of the United States and the Several Colonies*, in which it is listed (page 11). I have not attempted to trace others in public or private collections.



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## A NEW VIRGINIA HALFPENNY DIE COMBINATION DISCOVERED VARIETY 4-T

(Roger A. Moore MD)

Based on presently known documentation of British Tower Mint inspections dating back to the 1700s of dies used to mint the Crown-authorized Virginia halfpence coinage, we know that 40 obverse and 30 reverse dies were made.<sup>1</sup> If all of these dies were used in every possible die combination, a total of 1,200 die varieties of Virginia halfpence would exist. However, our present knowledge of known Virginia halfpenny varieties indicates that only 30 varieties exist, including the slightly larger Virginia proof-strike “Virginia Penny.” These 30 varieties were minted using 23 obverse dies and 22 reverse dies.<sup>2</sup> It is widely acknowledged, even by the grandfather of Virginia coinage, Eric Newman, that Virginia halfpence are one of the most difficult colonial coinages to attribute by variety. While this difficulty may serve to dissuade many from collecting them, it also presents a wonderful opportunity for those willing to climb the steep slope involved in learning proper attribution techniques. This author has previously emphasized this point with the statement,<sup>3</sup>

*...there are many Virginia halfpence sitting in collections across America that have never been attributed, so there is a real possibility that duplicates of the rare varieties may show up, as well as a strong possibility of entirely new die combinations being discovered. The difficulty in attributing these coins has allowed a very real treasure to exist for the ardent collector willing to take on the Virginia halfpenny challenge.*

On August 8, 2020 an unattributed Virginia halfpence was won by the author in an eBay auction (Figure 1, below.)

From experience the author has learned that the images posted for coins on eBay are not always accurate representations of the actual coin.<sup>4</sup> A previously won eBay coin by the author, thought to be a new Virginia die variety based on posted images had to be returned to the seller when it was discovered that the seller had mixed up obverse and reverse images. This mix-up occurred even after the seller was contacted before the end of the auction and asked to check that the two posted images actually went together. I was incorrectly assured that the images were the same as the coin. Similarly, the seller of this 4-T discovery coin gave assurances that the two posted images went together. It was with bated breath that I waited for the coin to arrive and was ecstatic when I found the seller was correct.

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<sup>1</sup> Inspection records performed on a routine basis at the Tower Mint show the existence of 40 obverse dies and 30 reverse dies on December 12, 1777.

<sup>2</sup> Moore *The Coins Of Colonial Virginia*, Published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2019, p. 64.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Moore p. 6.

<sup>4</sup> Moore, “Caution Using EBay Photographs,” *C4 Newsletter*, Vol. 18, No. 2, Summer, 2010, Page 26.



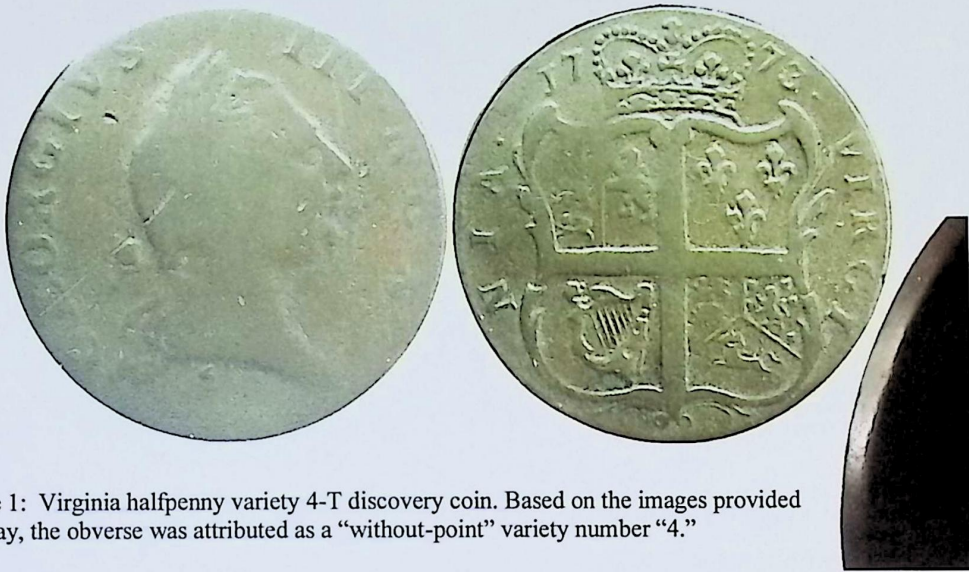


Figure 1: Virginia halfpenny variety 4-T discovery coin. Based on the images provided on eBay, the obverse was attributed as a “without-point” variety number “4.”

Figure 2 shows a typical high-grade example of a Variety 4 obverse next to the discovery coin obverse. One should note the abnormal die “blip” in the neckline of King George, which is diagnostic for obverse 4. Obverse 4 is presently known to be paired with three reverses: reverses G, O, and P.



Figure 2: Comparison of a typical Variety 4 obverse with the discovery coin obverse.

Similarly, the reverse of the eBay coin was attributed as a “seven harp string” Variety T. Figure 3 shows a high-grade example of a Variety T reverse for comparison with the reverse of the discovery coin. Reverse T is presently known to be paired with only obverse 13.

One will note that the upper left portion of the discovery coin’s reverse shield has a significant die bulge causing some loss of detail. Therefore, this reverse is a later die state than previously known for the T reverse.





Figure 3: Comparison of a typical T reverse with the discovery coin reverse.

The next step was to perform some basic metrological evaluations, which are shown in the chart. Due to the newly discovered Variety 4-T's significant wear, it was understood that comparing its data with uncirculated examples of Virginia halfpence could be problematic. Despite this caveat, the comparisons were quite good. The new Variety 4-T weighed 116.7 grains compared to the average weight for uncirculated Virginia halfpence of 118.3 grains, and the Crown mandated weight of 116.7 grains—exactly the same as this coin. The 8.77 specific gravity of the new variety also corresponded well with the 8.2 average specific gravity for uncirculated Virginia halfpence and served to indicate a probable high copper content. Diameters and thicknesses also fall well within the expected ranges for authentic Virginia halfpence.<sup>5</sup> The coin's edge shown in Figure 1 is consistent with an authentic Virginia halfpenny, though wear has smoothed it more than is found on uncirculated coins.

| WEIGHT | S. GRAVITY | X- DIA. | Y- DIA. | THICKNESS | AXIS |
|--------|------------|---------|---------|-----------|------|
| 116.7  | 8.77       | 25.1    | 24.8    | 2.1       | COIN |

Since this new variety was minted with two previously described dies used to mint existing varieties, naming the new variety was simple: Variety 4-T. Therefore, there are now 31 known Virginia halfpence varieties, including the "Virginia Penny", and this coin is best described as a "no-point" obverse 4 paired with a "7 harp string" reverse T. The last new Virginia variety to be discovered was by Alan Anthony in 2005, the 15-W.<sup>6</sup> I am sure there are a number of other new Virginia halfpenny varieties yet to be discovered. If you are lucky enough to come across one, I would appreciate it if you let me know about your discovery!! [RogerMoore435@yahoo.com](mailto:RogerMoore435@yahoo.com)



<sup>5</sup> Moore, p. 229.

<sup>6</sup> Moore, Roger A, and Anthony Alan; "New Virginia Variety Discovered: Newman 15-W," *The Colonial Newsletter*, CNL-129, Vol. 45, No. 3, (December 2005), Sequential Page 2929-2931.



# NEW THOUGHTS ON NOVA EBORAC DIE STATES

(James Glickman)

## Introduction

This article will discuss die states of the Nova Eborac coppers, and in so doing will build on the foundational work on this series, Gary Trudgen's 1991 *Colonial Newsletter* article.<sup>1</sup> Specific die states will be identified for the four Nova Eborac varieties, and observations will be offered for each variety. The die states identified are somewhat more extensive than have been recognized to date. For one variety, this article questions whether die states exist at all.

This article will also raise some unanswered issues and suggest areas for future research of this enigmatic and, in my view, understudied pre-federal coinage -- especially for a series that was manufactured in respectable quantities and which readily circulated.

The determination of levels of die deterioration into finite, identifiable states is admittedly a difficult endeavor. Although dies sometimes break down relatively suddenly in easily visible ways, they also can crack and fail in subtle and more slowly advancing ways, sometimes with differences too numerous for easy classification. Therefore, care should be taken to identify die states only where there are significant, observable advances in the deterioration of the die. While this article identifies more die states than I had originally contemplated, careful attempts have been made to identify distinct die states only where necessary to track the major steps in the life of the die. The coins themselves remain our guide, telling the story of the striking of the Nova Eborac coppers.

Making use of photographs to illustrate each of the proposed die states of the Nova Eborac coppers, this article will examine and discuss each of the four Nova Eborac varieties: the so-called Medium Head varieties, Seated Figure Facing Right (Crosby 1-A, Breen 987) and Seated Figure Facing Left (Crosby 1-B, Breen 986), the Large Head variety (Crosby 2-C, Breen 985), and the Small Head variety (Crosby 3-D, Breen 988). As Crosby 1-A and Crosby 1-B share an obverse die, there were a total of seven dies used to strike the four varieties.

By way of background, all Nova Eborac coins are dated 1787. The obverse legend "NOVA EBORAC" is the Latinized version of New York, and the reverse legend "VIRT ET LIB" most likely means virtue and liberty.<sup>2</sup> While the Seated Figure Facing Right and Seated Figure Facing Left varieties were struck in numbers large enough to make them relatively accessible to collectors, the Large Head and especially the Small Head varieties are rare, with the Large Head variety an R-6 and approximately 11-12 of the Small Head variety known.

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<sup>1</sup> Trudgen, Gary A., "The Nova Eborac Coppers," *The Colonial Newsletter*, Vol. 31, No. 3, Colonial Newsletter Foundation, September 1991, pp. 1261-1272. To become better acquainted with the series, one would be well-served by this article, as well as information presented on this series in the Walter Breen and Q. David Bowers encyclopedias and the Notre Dame colonial coin website ([www.coins.nd.edu](http://www.coins.nd.edu)). Also useful is information contained in Stack's, *John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part 2*, May 11, 2004, pp. 203-09.

<sup>2</sup> Glickman, James, "The Meaning of the Legend 'Virt Et Lib' on the Nova Eborac Coinage," *C4N*, Summer 2019 Issue, Vol. 27, No. 2.



Numismatic researchers attribute the Nova Eboracs to John Bailey and Ephraim Brasher. These coins are thought to have been struck at a mint in New York City after the State of New York, rejecting petitions for coinage on behalf of Bailey and Brasher and others, decided not to authorize an official coinage.<sup>3</sup> Although unauthorized by the State of New York Legislature, the prevalence of worn specimens indicates that these Nova Eborac coppers were certainly accepted in commerce and generally circulated. Nova Eboracs were fairly well made for Confederation Era coppers, but as we will see, like many coppers of the times, certain of the dies weakened and deteriorated in interesting ways.

## **Die State Analysis**

### **I. SEATED FIGURE FACING RIGHT (Crosby 1-A/Breen 987):**

We start with the variety with the most interesting and varied die states in the series: the Medium Head Seated Figure Facing Right variety. As Bowers observes, this reverse die is “[k]nown in transitional die states,”<sup>4</sup> and here we will classify and discuss those states.

Many are familiar with the large curved die break, or cud, which forms at the rim at the lower right border of the reverse by the foot of the seated figure. As this article will explore, that die break happens in stages, and other reverse die deterioration is evident as well. Trudgen identifies three die states: an “early” (perfect) die state, a “middle” die state where cracks begin at the K5 position on the reverse, then connect to a small, irregularly-shaped break, and a “late” die state where a larger cud or break has formed in that area, displacing the cracks formerly present.<sup>5</sup> After examination of the Seated Figure Facing Right variety, I propose the following six distinct die states, all involving the reverse of the variety. In addition, one slight bit of deterioration on the obverse die merits comment.

#### **Die State I (Perfect Reverse Die):**

As is the case in almost any die state progression, the first die state is the perfect die state of the reverse, in which the die imparts to the planchet the full, unaltered impression as engraved. Figure 1 illustrates Die State I.

Figure 1: Seated Figure Facing Right: Die State I. Photo by the author.



<sup>3</sup> Trudgen, p. 1261; Bowers, Q. David, *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins*, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed., Atlanta, Ga., Whitman Publishing, LLC, 2009, pp. 188-89 (pp. 194-95, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2020.)

<sup>4</sup> Bowers, p. 190.

<sup>5</sup> Trudgen, pp. 1267-68.



Interestingly, Die State I is one of the rarer die states of this variety, signifying that the reverse die started to have problems early on. This die deterioration most likely is related to a failure to properly strengthen the die during the hardening process. Trudgen estimated the number of specimens of the different die states he identified, calling the perfect die state the rarest, with an estimated 15-20 known specimens.<sup>6</sup> While a study of the numbers of coins in each die state is beyond the scope of this article, the author has seen a small enough number of specimens of the perfect die state to agree that they are rare, although not the rarest die state (see below). There appears, however, to be a few more specimens of this die state than Trudgen identifies.

### **Die State II (Cracks at Lower Right of Reverse):**

In Die State II, two well-formed cracks have developed in the lower right of the reverse. These die cracks run from the quatrefoil after “LIB” in a curve shape down and to the left, with one of the cracks connecting to the seated figure’s right leg and the other to the tip of the foot of the right leg, which is on or just above the exergue line, (see Figure 2a). As can be seen, along with the two cracks, a small break forms in the upper right corner of the quatrefoil after “LIB.” This quatrefoil is otherwise well formed, and the B of LIB remains strong.



Figure 2a: Seated Figure Facing Right: Die State II.  
Photo by the author.

This distinct die state, with the die cracks visible, is an advance over the preceding perfect die state. It is also clearly distinct from the next die state, which features a small, irregularly shaped cud in the space between the cracks. Compare Figure 2a with Figure 3a below. No coin is known to have only one of these two cracks. These cracks seem to have developed in tandem.

Figure 2b shows a coin struck before the preceding Figure 2a yet after Figure 1, above. It features cracks that are just forming – careful examination of the coin reveals light cracks that will soon strengthen. The break in the quatrefoil after LIB has not yet formed on Figure 2b. This coin, however, should not be considered a separate die state, but rather a slightly earlier example of Die State II, with the cracks in their infancy.

Die State II appears to be slightly rarer than Die State I, in the author’s experience.



Figure 2b: Seated Figure Facing Right: Die State II, lighter cracks.  
Photo by the author.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1268.



**Die State III (Irregular Small Break Above Cracks at Lower Right of Reverse):**

In Die State III, a cud has formed on the upper portion of the area in which previously only cracks were evident in Die State II. Below this new cud are the remains of these cracks. Small, irregular extensions are seen at the upper and lower extremities of this oddly formed small cud. Die State III is pictured in Figure 3a and in Figure 3b.<sup>7</sup>



Figure 3a (Left): Seated Figure Facing Right: Die State III.  
Photo by the author.



Figure 3b (Right): Seated Figure Facing Right: Die State III.  
Photo by the author.

Particular note is made of the place in which the two cracks now connect to the seated figure's right leg. Recall that in Die State II the upper crack intersects with the lower portion of the right leg, and the lower crack intersects with the tip of the foot of the right leg, which is located on or above the exergue line. In Die State III, however, the *upper* crack meets at the foot and the lower crack extends noticeably below the foot. Compare Figure 2a with Figure 3a. Close examination reveals that the position of the cracks in relationship to the right leg has changed, and this is due to the fact that the legs of the seated figure have changed. The right leg and foot, which initially touched the exergue line in Die State II, are now clearly shortened, ending noticeably above the exergue line. In addition, the small, thin portion of the lower left leg that was clearly visible as a part of the original design, as seen in Die States I and II, is no longer present; not a trace of the lower left leg below the knee now remains. Furthermore, no coins are known where the lower left leg is only partially present, or where the lower right leg recedes in stages. The progression is simply from the lower left leg being present in Die State II to being partially absent in Die State III, now ending abruptly at the knee, and from the lower right leg extending to the exergue line in Die State II to now ending noticeably above it (Die State III.) Figure 3c below shows the lower right reverse area enlarged on both Figure 2a (Die State II) and Figure 3a (Die State III) coins.



Figure 3c: Seated Figure Facing Right:  
Die State II v. Die State III – Enlarged Detail.

<sup>7</sup> See also Stack'sBowers Galleries, The Archangel Collection, Lot 7093, October 26, 2018.



There are two possible explanations for these changes in the Seated Figure's legs. The first explanation is that the die in the area of the left leg and right foot was affected by the changes in the lower right portion of the die observed by Trudgen.<sup>8</sup> Regarding the shortened lower right leg in Die State III, the stubby new "foot" looks a bit like it was once a drapery fold on the lower leg, with the part of the die below that point having deteriorated. A second explanation is that possibly further die work was performed on the reverse die in the area of the legs of the Seated Figure, secondary to the die break. This could have entailed work to strengthen, or repair the die via lapping of the die, with subsequent loss of features. There appears in Die State III what could be a stubby new foot, similar to the original foot, at the new bottom of the right leg. And it is very curious that both the lower right leg and the lower left leg appear to be so completely altered so suddenly, with no transitional coins known showing intermediate stages of the missing details to the legs. It is also very curious that there is no change to that portion of the right leg abutting the missing portion of the left leg. A natural change in the die, unaided by purposeful die work, would most likely not have surgically affected one leg so greatly and left the abutting adjacent leg unaffected, yet only the precise contours of the lower left leg and lower right leg disappear. Finally, a foreign material like grease could have got onto the die, affecting the lower left leg and part of the lower right leg and foot, although one imagines that it would have been noticed and removed, and the same question remains why the missing detail so completely affects one leg but not the other.

Why would the legs have been re-worked, if in fact they were? Perhaps the die was lapped in an overzealous manner to remove the die cracks, and the legs were a casualty of that effort. Conceivably, as long as die work was being done anyway, the lower left leg could have been removed because of dissatisfaction with that element of the design. Or possibly perhaps lapping occurred that accidentally removed part of the lower left leg, and to "correct" the error the remaining lower part of that leg was removed. In sum, it remains unclear whether the shortened right leg and missing lower left leg are the result of accidental over-aggressive lapping or purposeful die work, or the result of natural die deterioration unaided by human hands.

Other features of the lower right portion of the reverse die in Die State III are of note. The first feature is the thinning and eventual absence of the top of the B in LIB. The second feature is the deterioration of the quatrefoil following LIB, from a full well-formed quatrefoil to three small pellet-shaped objects. These features are seen, for example in Figure 3b.

Finally, as with Die State II, there appear to be very few coins exhibiting Die State III, as this reverse die state must have quickly progressed to the larger and more familiar lower right die break to be discussed next. The die was in an unstable state. This author has encountered less than 10 specimens of Die State III, although a formal census has not been undertaken at this time. Were a census of the coins in each die state to be performed, this would most likely be the rarest die state of the Seated Figure Facing Right variety.

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<sup>8</sup> Trudgen, p. 1267.



**Die State IV (Large Break at Lower Right of Reverse):**

In Die State IV, the die deterioration seen in the preceding die states blossoms into the familiar large break. This die state is the most common one for the variety. Figure 4a illustrates this die state.



Figure 4a: Seated Figure Facing Right: Die State IV.  
Photo courtesy of Stack's Bowers Galleries.

The large curved die break is mostly smooth, with a small bump in its upper region, a remnant of the irregularity seen on the small break in Die State III. This die break does not develop any further. It remains this size and shape for the remainder of the life of the reverse die.

Figure 4b, a coin struck well off-center, offers another perspective of the large curved break for comparison.

Figure 4b: Seated Figure Facing Right: Die State IV. Photo by the author.

In this die state one can see that the "B" of LIB and the quatrefoil to its right have continued to deteriorate. In Figure 4a, the top of the B is gone, and the quatrefoil is now reduced to three pellet-looking objects of raised metal.



**Die State V (Small Internal Cud at Reverse Seated Figure's Shoulder/Arm):**

While no further die deterioration occurred in the lower right area of the reverse die, the die did continue to deteriorate in other areas of the die. An internal cud forms between the shoulder and the arm of the seated figure, and our attention now shifts there for the final two die states.

In Die State V, a small triangular break has formed at the shoulder of the arm holding the liberty pole, filing in part of the area formed by the elbow, the portion of the arm above the elbow, and the pole. This break is illustrated in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Seated Figure Facing Right: Die State V.  
Photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions, HA.com.





This die state is seldom seen, likely on par in rarity with Die State II. This small break at the shoulder seems to have soon progressed to a larger break, which we will examine in the next and final die state.

### **Die State VI (Large Internal Cud at Reverse Seated Figure's Shoulder/Arm):**

Die State VI is the final die state for this variety. The triangular break between the shoulder and arm of the seated figure has become enlarged in a visible and obvious way, warranting classification separate from the previous die state. Figure 6 illustrates the larger break.



Figure 6: Seated Figure Facing Right: Die State VI.  
Photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions, HA.com

This die state is not rare, although less common than Die State IV. It is estimated that about a quarter of the specimens with the large die break (i.e. Die States IV-VI) have some sort of break at the shoulder.

### **Note on the Obverse Die Shared by the Seated Figure Facing Right and Seated Figure Facing Left Varieties:**

As noted above, the Seated Figure Facing Left and Seated Figure Facing Right varieties share an obverse die. This obverse die, by contrast, endured very well through use in two comparatively common varieties with almost no observable deterioration.<sup>9</sup> Trudgen does note that on the obverse of Seated Figure Facing Right coins, there is a break on the lower right portion of the quatrefoil after "EBORAC," which does not appear on the obverse of Seated Figure Facing Left specimens.<sup>10</sup> This signifies that the Seated Figure Facing Left variety was struck before the Seated Figure Facing Right variety.<sup>11</sup> Figure 7 shows the obverse quatrefoil break in question, visible at approximately K5.

<sup>9</sup> In this way the obverse die is not unlike the Vermont Bressett 10 obverse die, or the New Jersey "J" reverse die, although on a smaller scale.

<sup>10</sup> Trudgen, p. 1267.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*





Figure 7: Obverse Shared by Seated Figure Facing Left and Seated Figure Facing Right. Photo by the author.

## **II. SEATED FIGURE FACING LEFT (Crosby 1-B/Breen 986):**

The Seated Figure Facing Left variety presents an interesting issue: Do the observed changes to be discussed signify die states or are they the product of other aspects of the minting process? The changes to be discussed, found on the reverse, are more subtle than on the previous variety, but are clearly present. They pertain primarily to the date on the lower portion of the reverse die which undergoes observable changes. Trudgen identified two die states, an early state with a “full” date, and a later die state with a “partial” date.<sup>12</sup>

Below I identify three discreet “states” of the reverse of this variety. Because they may not technically be die states, in that most likely the die has not been physically altered, they are denominated as just “states” rather than “die states,” but such categorization is relevant either way. I also discuss below some possible explanations for these states.

There are no obverse die issues to be noted, except for the small die break at the quatrefoil noted above.

### **State I (Strong Full Date):**

In State I of the Seated Figure Facing Left variety, the date, “1787,” is bold, with all four digits strong. The “1” is thicker than the other digits, and the “7”s are long and lean to the right. Figure 8 illustrates State I. Both loops of the 8 are strong. On some State I coins, the upper loop of the “8” is slightly thinner than the bottom loop. See Figure 9. For inclusion in State I, all four digits of the date are full and clearly readable.



Figure 8: Seated Figure Facing Left: State I. Photo by the author.

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<sup>12</sup> Trudgen, pp. 1266-67.



Figure 9: Seated Figure Facing Left: State I. Photo by the author.

Specimens with strong full dates, while rare, can be found with some patience and diligence. Trudgen notes that “full complete date specimens are much rarer than coins with partial dates,”<sup>13</sup> and estimates that there are approximately 30-40 specimens with full complete dates.<sup>14</sup> Bowers notes that “probably only about 20 percent [of known examples] show the full date boldly visible.”<sup>15</sup> This estimate may be high but not too far off; perhaps, 10-15% appears closer to what has been observed, where coins with a partially weak date are carefully excluded.



As will be seen, the date is found more weakly struck, leading to the classification of the two following states.

### **State II (Partially Weakened Date):**

State II of the Seated Figure Facing Left variety encompasses coins for which the date no longer has four strong digits, yet half or more of the date remains. Typically, coins in State II have weakness in the final two digits of the date, with the first two digits remaining clear if not strong. The four digits did not strike equally, and the date almost appears to be weak from right to left. The first digit, “1,” fared better than the other digits, possibly because the punch used to make the “1” was thicker. The partially weak date separates it as a state from the strong full date specimens.

Figure 10 shows a typical example of coins in this intermediate state, with the first two digits strong and the final two digits weak. Note how the left side of the “8” and the bottom of the final “7” are absent. Note, also in Figure 11 the die deterioration at the rim from K10 to K1 of the reverse. This feature is sometimes visible on high-grade specimens. Coins in this state are not difficult to locate, relatively speaking.



Figure 10: Seated Figure Facing Left: State II.  
Photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions, HA.com.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1266.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1267.

<sup>15</sup> Bowers, p. 190.



**State III (Weak/Failing Date):**

In State III, the final state for this variety, the date has mostly or essentially disappeared. Less than half of the date now remains. Here, the date is either discernable only with considerable effort, or is simply not able to be made out. Coins in this state will have very thin digits or portions of digits, and some digits may be missing altogether. The common thread in this state is that, again, less than half of the date remains.<sup>16</sup>

In Figure 11, a coin with little wear, the final three digits are almost not seen, and the “1” is weak. This is the type of wear emblematic of a State III coin.

Figure 11: Seated Figure Facing Left: State III. Photo by the author.



Figure 12: Seated Figure Facing Left: State III.  
Photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions, HA.com.

Figure 12 shows a State III coin in AU55 condition where the die has dramatically failed to strike most of the date and even the surrounding area, with only the “1” remaining.

As with State II, specimens in State III are relatively plentiful. The majority of Seated Figure Facing Left specimens exhibit weakness in the date, with most showing this weakness in more than half of the date.

Examining other facets of the reverse die of the Seated Figure Facing Left variety reveals that some coins exhibit a weakness in the Seated Figure’s head, some of the letters to the left of it, especially “E” in “ET,” and the knee/thigh of the Seated Figure. Trudgen identifies the seated figure’s head and the lettering in the upper left quadrant as weakly struck, initially, weakening further as the die experienced greater use.<sup>17</sup> The weakness of the head and lettering in the upper left quadrant is demonstrated in Figures 9 and 10, above. Both of these coins, despite being State I examples, exhibit weakness in the head, and the “E” in “ET” is weak as seen in Figure 9. Another coin, Newman Part IX, November 2017, Lot 15299, has as strong a date as one will find, and yet the entire upper quadrant, including the seated figure’s head, is quite weak. And the converse is sometimes true: some coins that are not in State I still occasionally exhibit fairly full heads and no great weakening of the letters in the upper left quadrant. See Figures 10 and 12, above. There

<sup>16</sup> All of the coins without a strong full date could have been categorized together in a single state. However, the die failed to fully impart the date in observable, identifiable stages, making appropriate the separation of coins with merely some weakness in the date from coins where the die has ceased to effectively impart the date to the planchet.

<sup>17</sup> Trudgen, p. 1266.



is no clear correlation, therefore, between the extent of weakness in these areas and the failure of the dies to impart the proper image onto the planchet.

We now come to the question of whether the weakening of the date is from die deterioration, leading to die states, or from another cause. Why does the date weaken so dramatically?<sup>18</sup> As is sometimes the case in numismatic research, no definitive answer presents itself. However, I conclude that most likely the answer does not lie in die degradation, and therefore we are probably not witnessing die states. I have considered several potential explanations. There does not seem to be evidence of die bulging or buckling at the date area, such as a depression or raised areas on the coin. It is also unlikely that grease or some other foreign material became lodged in that area, where the dates on so many of the coins in this variety are weak. Likewise, it appears unlikely that the die was lapped at the date area, as there does not appear to have been any purpose served by it. Perhaps the date was sunk too deeply into the die, such that the available metal could not completely fill the cavities of the digits. However, this factor does not satisfactorily explain the existence of specimens with strong full dates.

It may well be that the weakness in the date results from a combination of factors which do not involve die deterioration. Misalignment of the dies may well have been an important factor concerning the weakness in the date, as the die faces may have ceased to be parallel after a number of strikes. The letters on the left side of the reverse, as well as the left side of the obverse, opposite each other as the coins were struck in metal turn, are sometimes found weakly struck. This is consistent with die misalignment. Another possible factor is the fact that the central obverse device punch at the top of the bust was sunk a bit too deeply into the die. The upper portion of the obverse bust is opposite the date area. Thus, this circumstance may have robbed the date area of the metal flow it needed to completely fill the digits of the date.

I cannot say for sure that these factors provide definitive answers. In fact, they suggest additional questions. For example, why did the right side of the date weaken more than on the left side, and is that still consistent with die misalignment in the date area? Does the weakness in the date area, and also what appears to be weakness on the Seated Figure's knee/thigh, provide some support to the deeply sunk obverse central device punch theory? Perhaps die misalignment would help explain the weak head sometimes found on the reverse Seated Figure. And finally, did the coiners attempt to fix any misalignment after noticing coins with poorly struck dates, as well as weakness elsewhere on the reverse? Given that the number of coins with strong dates are small compared with those with weak dates, I suspect that coins with strong dates and other features were struck first prior to the dies becoming misaligned.

I conclude, in view of all factors above, that most likely die misalignment appears to have been the major factor leading to weakness of the date, although I cannot rule out a deeply sunk obverse central device punch at the top of the bust as a possible explanation as well. But there is room for doubt and further study, and it is still possible that the die deteriorated in the date area in a way that is not well understood, or that there was some die deterioration, especially affecting the

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<sup>18</sup> The author is indebted to Gary Trudgen and Jim Rosen for their thoughts and comments concerning this issue. Reference is made regarding the following discussion to email communications with both gentlemen dated November 22-23, 2020.



last three digits, which occurred in combination with the factors cited above. Clearly, however, the last word on this subject has not been written.<sup>19</sup>

### **III. LARGE HEAD (Crosby 2-C/Breen 985):**

Significantly rarer than either of the previous two varieties, the Large Head variety soon experienced issues with the obverse die. Three die states pertaining to the obverse die will be identified. No reverse die issues of die-state significance are noted.

#### **Die State I (Perfect Obverse Die):**

In Die State I, the observe die has not yet experienced problems such as cracks, buckling, bulging, or other die issues. Figure 13 illustrates Die State I.

Figure 13: Large Head: Die State I. Photo by the author.



Coins in this die state, as seen in Figure 13, do not exhibit die issues that will be seen in the next two die states. Specifically, all letters in the legend in Figure 13 are full and strong, an unusual occurrence. A curved vertical raised area in front of the bust's face, seen on most all Large Head specimens, is absent or is too slight to be perceptible, as in Figure 13. Die State I is easily the rarest die state, indicating that die problems probably occurred early on during the striking of this variety. This author has only seen a few specimens where this curved bulge is either absent or essentially absent.

#### **Die State II (Bulge in Front of Face/Weakened Letters):**

In Die State II, two die issues become apparent. First, certain of the letters become thin or partially disappear. The affected letters are the "O" in NOVA, especially on the letter's left side; and "B," "O," "R," and "C" in "EBORAC," especially the tops of these letters.

The second issue is a noticeable vertical curved raised area visible in front of the face of the bust. As indicated above, this curved bulge is present on almost all Large Head coins. Figure

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<sup>19</sup> One known coin of this variety is described as having a die crack on the reverse, from the tip of the shield to the left portion of "B" in LIB. This same coin appears both in Bowers and Merena, *The Norweb Collection*, Part II, Lot 2677, and in Heritage Auctions Feb. 22, 2018 Long Beach Sale, Lot 3691. Both lot descriptions refer to such a crack, and a line is visible in both photos. However, this is a State I coin, and no such die crack has been observed in any other coin. If this coin does, in fact, have a die crack, one would expect it to recur in other coins. Until more coins exhibiting this crack appear, it is not at this time considered as a conclusive die state diagnostic factor.



14 demonstrates the die condition in Die State II. This raised area is the result of the die buckling in that area probably soon after the die was put in service. The die buckling would cause a concave area on the die, and if that buckling occurred in the field of the die, a raised area on the corresponding part of the coin would occur.<sup>20</sup>



Figure 14: Large Head: Die State II.  
Photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions, HA.com.

One question that arises is which of the two coin issues developed first: the curved bulge on the coin or the affected partial, thinned letters? The development of both issues seems to overlap to a great extent so that separate die states are not needed for these co-existing issues. No Large Head specimens have been observed where the obverse letters have substantially weakened without the observable bulge, nor has the converse been observed. Perhaps the buckling in the central obverse die took up enough copper upon striking to prevent the dies from imparting the full legends to the planchet.

### **Die State III (Break at Shoulder of Bust):**

In Die State III, the curved bulge will be more pronounced than in the previous die state. In addition, the letters in the obverse legend are further weakened, especially visible in the “O” in NOVA and the “C” in EBORAC, which is more than half missing. The “B” is at least as weak if not weaker than the previous die state.

However, the key diagnostic feature for all Die State III coins is a new die issue: a die break at the mail on the bust’s shoulder. The break traverses diagonally upward from the shoulder in a northwest direction into the hair ribbon. It does become slightly larger over successive strikes. Finally, the bottom of the quatrefoil after EBORAC becomes weak in this die state, and the possibility of a foreign substance adhering to this area of the die cannot be ruled out. Figure 15 shows an example of a Die State III Large Head coin.<sup>21</sup>



Figure 15: Large Head: Die State III.  
Photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions, HA.com.

<sup>20</sup> Email communication with Jim Rosen, November 16, 2020.

<sup>21</sup> A small die issue on the reverse of the Large Head variety is noted. As that die wears, a die crack runs through “ET” in the legend. This can be seen on some Die State II and Die State III coins, for example Heritage, The Partrick Collection, January 8, 2015, Lot 5663.



#### **IV. SMALL HEAD (Crosby 3-D/Breen 988):**

There are about 11 or 12 estimated survivors of this very rare variety (the exact number is undetermined.) Because of the small number of coins available for study, die states cannot easily be determined. Trudgen states that this variety was probably the first of the four struck.<sup>22</sup>



Figure 16: Small Head. Photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions, HA.com.

After examining photos of Small Head specimens, one notes some evidence of obverse die failure. On a few examples, the front part of the obverse bust's facial features are indistinct, which could have possibly been caused by die buckling in that area. The Roper coin is such an example.<sup>23</sup> It looks as though the middle of the die started to buckle fairly quickly.<sup>24</sup> Yet the existence of only a very few surviving examples complicates the die state analysis. A die would most likely, but not always, be expected to strike a large number of coins before the force of the successive strikes led the die to this kind of change. This could indicate either (a) an extremely low survival rate of the variety or (b) a failure of the die after a low number of strikes, which could have happened quickly, or (c) some explanation other than a buckled die for the weak facial features on some of the Small Head coins, such as a die-sinking anomaly like failing to sink the punch into the die in a horizontal manner. It is most probable that the central part of the obverse die had some issues after a number of strikes, because some of the coins have full, strong features and other coins are weak in the facial area. I also note the possibility of the obverse die succumbing to massive die failure relatively early on, which would explain the low number of survivors. In any event, this central obverse weakness in some specimens should therefore be noted regarding the Small Head variety, even with the paucity of specimens from which to draw conclusions. No die issues have been seen regarding the reverse of the Small Head variety, although with the small sample size, the information from which to draw a conclusion is limited.

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<sup>22</sup> Trudgen, p. 1262.

<sup>23</sup> Stacks, The John L. Roper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection, December 8-9, 1983, Lot 270. The lot description of this lot references the Crosby plate coin, found at Plate VIII, coin no. 12.

<sup>24</sup> See Trudgen, p. 1264, regarding failure at the center of the Small Head obverse die.



### **Areas for Future Study:**

There are a few areas implied or noted above which would benefit from additional study, which could hopefully add to or clarify the above die state analyses.

First, a study resulting in estimates of the number of coins in each die state listed above for each variety would be useful, as well as a census of how many total examples of each variety exist. Such a study would provide a confirmation or update of the numbers contained in Trudgen's 1991 *CNL* article.

Second, the changes to the seated figure's legs on the reverse of the Seated Figure Facing Right variety pose an interesting issue for additional study. Were these changes the natural result of die deterioration, or the result of reworking of the die, and if it is the latter, for what purpose?

Third, the reason(s) for the weakened date on the reverse of the Seated Figure Facing Left variety are not completely clear, as discussed, and could benefit from additional study.

Fourth, to complete our understanding of the Figure Facing Left die states, it is important to know whether the Norweb coin discussed above (see footnote 19 above) actually has a die crack on the reverse between the shield and the letter "B" of LIB. If so, do any other coins of this variety exist with this feature?

### **Conclusion**

This article has attempted to discuss and document die progressions concerning the four varieties of Nova Eborac coppers, and to explain the weak date on the Medium Head Figure Facing Left. The coins themselves serve as our guide, telling us the condition of the dies for each variety examined, and how the die may have changed from previous strikes. In that spirit, it is certainly possible that there are coins in collectors' hands not reviewed by the author which could shed light upon the subject. A die state study is seldom, if ever, the final word on the topic. It would be appreciated if the existence of any coins thought to add to the present study be communicated to the author.<sup>25</sup>



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<sup>25</sup> The author is greatly indebted to Jim Rosen for his extraordinary assistance and generosity of time. The author would also like to thank Gary Trudgen, Mark Vitunic, and Tom Gesner for their helpful comments on earlier drafts of this article, as well as for their ongoing encouragement of this project. This article is dedicated in memory of Clem Schettino.



## THE MEETING OF TWO NEW JERSEY COLLECTORS

(Michael Demling)

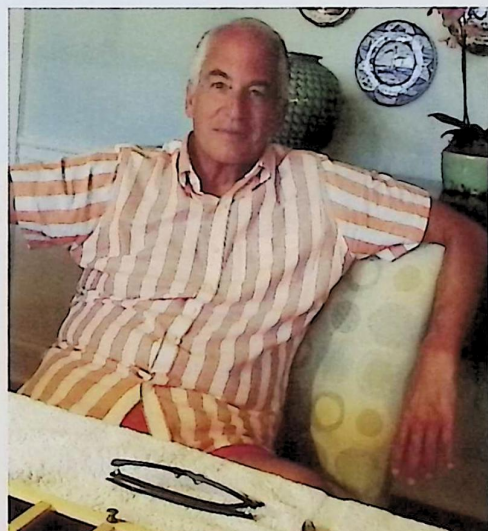
On August 18, 2020 I had the pleasure of meeting with Roger Siboni at his lovely home in NJ. The purpose of the trip, to sit down and look at some NJ coppers...what else?! Roger's home around this time of year is normally the spot for his annual Beach Symposium, something that unfortunately cannot happen this year for obvious reasons, so this meeting was the next best thing!

To say the least, this day will forever be etched into my mind. Roger, who started collecting New Jersey coppers in 1992, has acquired so many amazing pieces and today stands at 105 die varieties. I started my journey in 2005, and with some luck and effort, am humbled to have 129 varieties. All these pieces were sitting on the table at one time while both Roger and I patiently looked at each and every one. How can it get any better than that?!

New Jersey copper collectors realize their first goal of collecting at 50 to 60 varieties. That is an accomplishment in itself. After that, the next goal is 80 to 90 varieties, which many collectors never get a chance to get to. After that, the "Magic Number," being part of the 100 variety club! Few collectors have reached this achievement over the years; currently fewer than 12 collectors can claim this milestone.

Going back to the coins I saw on this amazing afternoon...WOW, what a collection Roger has. Many of his coins are the finest known for the variety, with so many famous names attached to their pedigree. Honestly, not a bad coin in the group (not a surprise to people who know Roger).

Thank you so much Roger for this wonderful and thrilling day!



Michael Demling (left) and Roger Siboni (right.)

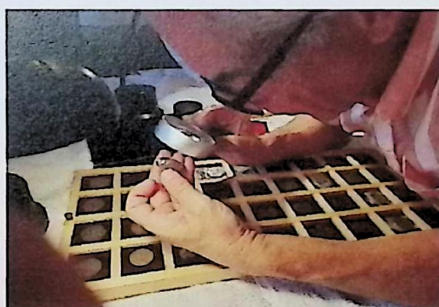




Some Nice  
Jerseys



Maris 3-C (left)  
and  
Maris 4-C (right.)



Maris obverses 50 (left) and 51 (right.)



## More Nice Jerseys



Top to bottom: Maris 10-h, Maris 11-H, Maris 20-N and Maris 76-cc



## A COLONIAL SECRET CODE

(Buell Ish)

Can you decipher this?

40-46 25-33-21.5-46 32-59 43-21.5-52-56-54 71-59-33-21.5 59-67-39-29-32-52-56-46

Maybe give it a try before reading on?

During a moment of boredom (umm...2020), my mind strayed to the decoder rings of the 50s and 60s. Who among us can decode the above message based just on what comes to mind looking at the numbers?

If you are one of us (and live and breathe Maris numbers), then just possibly this code system is for you. With little effort you should be able to send and receive secret messages! Why didn't anyone think of this during WWII?

For 22 of the 26 letters, there is a perfect choice (the exceptions marked with an \* in the chart). For example, '39' can only be 'a.' For just over half of the letters, there are multiple single- or double-digit codes that are completely conclusive. For example: 20, 56, 57, and 58 only come paired with 'N' (or n). I'm using 56. Everyone knows 56-n!

I decided to ignore capitalization and double letters for this purpose, so 'A' could have been 1 (Maris 1-A), 39 (Maris 39-a), or 73 (Maris 73-aa). I selected '39' because it is a common variety and therefore easy to recall.

Obverses paired with multiple reverses need to be avoided. Obverse 38, for example. It could be: L, Y, Z, a, b, c. Enough said.

There are a few minor issues in the code: 'D' for example. '6' could be 'C' or 'D.' 43 can be 'd' or 'Y,' etc. '78' works, but it has been delisted (gasp!). '43' is usually followed by 'd.' So that works for me.

Similarly, '59' is usually 'o,' but there is 59-mm (only one example known). And, '62' is almost always paired with the 'q' reverse. 62-r is a known variety, albeit exceedingly rare.

'R' represents a different issue. It's necessary to use a 1/2-designated obverse to be conclusively 'R' or 'r.' Surprisingly, four work, 21-1/2, 23-1/2, 62-1/2, and 65-1/2. I went with the first one, but they are all fine. I generally prefer 1/2 over the decimal .5 because it harkens back to the good doctor himself, but for writing coded messages, I found '.5' preferable.

Now, you don't have to use the specific Maris obverse numbers I did. (Of course, you don't.) Feel free to use whatever comes to you on the fly. And a shout out to Ralphie (Christmas Story). "A crummy commercial. Son of a bitch!"



Here is what I'm using (options or issues in parentheses):

|   |      |                                                        |
|---|------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| A | 39   | (1, 73)                                                |
| B | 40   | (2, 74, 75)                                            |
| C | 41   | (3, 4, 5, 42, 42.5, 76)                                |
| D | 43*  | (but could also be 'Y', or use 78)                     |
| E | 46   | (47, 47.5, 79)                                         |
| F | 50   | (8, 49, 80)                                            |
| G | 51   | (9)                                                    |
| H | 11*  | (for H and hh, but could also be 'G' – only one known) |
| I | 52   | (83)                                                   |
| J | 14   | (13, 36, 53)                                           |
| K | 54   | (84)                                                   |
| L | 29   | (30, 31)                                               |
| M | 19   |                                                        |
| N | 56   | (20, 57, 58)                                           |
| O | 59*  | (could also be 'mm' – only one known)                  |
| P | 60   | (4.5, 22, 61)                                          |
| Q | 62*  | (could also be 'r' – exceedingly rare)                 |
| R | 21.5 | (23.5, 62.5, and 65.5)                                 |
| S | 25   |                                                        |
| T | 32   |                                                        |
| U | 33   | (65)                                                   |
| V | 67   |                                                        |
| W | 68   | (69)                                                   |
| X | 70   |                                                        |
| Y | 71   |                                                        |
| Z | 72   |                                                        |

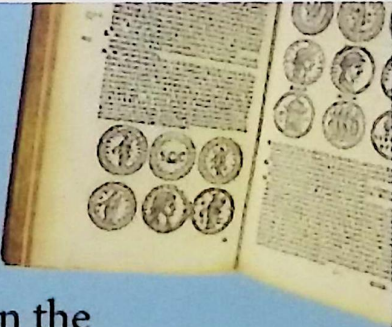
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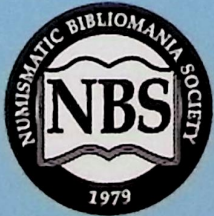
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## **R.I.P. YAHOO GROUPS, 2001-2020 HELLO GOOGLE GROUPS, 2020-?**

(Jeff Rock)

Thankfully, this ISN'T about the loss of yet another member of our collecting fraternity, but rather the very expected demise of the Yahoo Groups. The patient became ill in 2019, no longer able to archive posts or store photographs or files in its system. It limped along for another year, only to succumb in a pandemic year.

Many of the groups were initially set up by the late Jim Spillman, then editor of *The Colonial Newsletter*, in early 2004. Jim was, literally, a rocket scientist and clearly saw the benefit of an online chat forum far sooner than the rest of us did. He set up individual groups for most of the colonial series, calling them e-SIGs, each one with a moderator appointed who had a keen interest in the area. Participation was limited and sporadic, mostly because the technology wasn't quite where it needed to be. Many of us were still using dial-up internet, and digital cameras were still expensive and had limited capabilities (including poor picture quality of coins taken in close-up).

But things slowly improved, and in 2009 a group was set up to deal with the entire area of colonial coins, associated with, but not run by C4. This group took off where the earlier e-SIG's did not, and it was quicker and easier to post questions, comments and photographs, the quality of which had improved dramatically in just half a decade. The only other early group to be successful was one devoted to counterfeit British and Irish copper coinage of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, much of which circulated in colonial and early North America, a group which shared images and research help perhaps at a greater pace than even the colonial group, especially as it had just 10% of the members.

Before Yahoo shut down their groups, the colonial one had over 100,000 posts made in 11 years, and over 400 different e-mail addresses subscribed. Thankfully, those posts are not lost—they have been archived on the Newman Numismatic Portal where they can be searched (to do so, go to the advanced search page, select "articles" as the content type and then conduct your search from there). The messages on the Portal have been cleaned up a bit, stripping away a lot of the computer jargon that got sent along, and they preserve posts made by friends who are no longer with us.

With Yahoo Groups notifying members that they would be shutting down all groups in mid-December 2020, it was felt that the group concept was worth saving and moving elsewhere. The chat group provided a surprising social aspect along with more research-oriented goals. The group format allowed for interaction between members all over the country—and world!—and people who could never make it to a C4 convention in Boston or Baltimore were able to stay in touch as often as they wanted. Ideas and images could be shared, questions could be asked; new collectors had the benefit of more advanced collectors who willingly shared information. We are in a digital era, and not having a colonial presence there would have certainly been a mistake.

Google Groups offers a similar platform to the old Yahoo Groups, with the exception of not storing photos or files on its site (though they will forward those things to every subscriber of the group who can then download whatever they wish to save). As the clock was ticking, a colonial



group was secured on Google, along with one for the counterfeit British and Irish coppers. These are, again, affiliated with C4 but not run by the club. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the series. To join, go to: <https://groups.google.com/g/colonial-coins> and request to join or send me a personal email at: [rosaamltd@gmail.com](mailto:rosaamltd@gmail.com), and I can sign you up directly. If you are interested in the counterfeit group, the address for that is: <https://groups.google.com/g/british-irish-non-regals>.

The Google Groups function the same way as the earlier Yahoo ones—basically a glorified email exchange server. Anyone can make a post, which will then be sent to everyone else in the group, and anyone can reply, with all the replies saved on a single string based on the original post. Once joined, you have the option to choose whether you want to get all posts, to get an abridged version, a digest version, or to get no posts at all and just view them on the web whenever you want. While we certainly encourage participation, it is by no means required. You are welcome to lurk and learn, and post if and when you wish.

Because the groups are supposed to be fun, we have set up limited rules, as follows:

- 1) Be courteous to one another—we can disagree without being disagreeable. None of us want to witness fights or name calling, and none of us want to have to choose sides. Take that behavior out to the schoolyard if you need to do it.
- 2) Do NOT post about politics, religion, or other sensitive topics. Many of us have radically different opinions from others, yet remain friends, tied together by our love of this hobby. Don't ruin it for others. If you feel the need to vent about such things, join Facebook or Twitter and get it done there, not here. You CAN post about political events happening at the time these coins were struck, but keep the politics in the 17th and 18th centuries, and do not try to draw parallels with what may be happening in the 21st century.
- 3) We are all adults, but we do not want adult language, adult commentary, or adult photographs. Again, if you need to do this, the options outline above apply: schoolyard, Facebook or Twitter.
- 4) This is NOT a sales group. Do not post items for sale or trade or try to run auctions here. If you want to do this, eBay will handle it for you, and there are many sales groups on Facebook. You are welcome to make a VERY rare crass, commercial announcement if you have written a book for sale or have consigned your collection for auction. Please label it as such, and only post it once. Do not post links to sales of your own coins on eBay or elsewhere.
- 5) Speaking of eBay, we all use it. We all look there at least occasionally. Please refrain from commenting on or posting links to ANY eBay auction that is currently active. Don't ruin a potential cherry-pick for another member of the group by broadcasting something far and wide. The spoils should go to those who do the work and discover these treasures. The one exception is the "wacky eBay" type of post where you can post a link to an active sale that is ludicrous or amusing in some way, like a worn slick piece of copper offered at a starting bid of a million dollars—we can be pretty sure none of



the group will be bidding on that. But when in doubt, wait until after an auction is closed before posting anything on it to the group.

If you haven't yet participated in the groups, we urge you to join. It is an enjoyable experience, and you will learn a lot from the very diverse and knowledgeable members. If you were a member of one of the old groups but have not yet received any posts from the new ones, please contact me directly. We likely had an invalid email address for you and can get you set up in the new group immediately. In a year where most of us were unable to see any other collectors, the chat groups kept the hobby interesting and kept us all in touch. We hope to see you join too!



## THE JOURNAL OF EARLY AMERICAN NUMISMATICS

*The Journal of Early American Numismatics (JEAN)* is a research journal based on the former *Colonial Newsletter (CNL)* dedicated to the study of early American numismatics. Founded in 1960, *CNL* continuously published some of the most scholarly and seminal studies in this area of numismatics. Focusing on the study of the coinages produced by the states during the Confederation period of the United States, *CNL* also investigated a variety of other specie that the U.S.'s forefathers used in their daily lives. *JEAN* expands the focus of *CNL* with contributions on numismatics of all the Americas during the same time period covered by *CNL* and is published as a bound scholarly journal twice a year in June and December. In 2019, *JEAN* received a Numismatic Literary Guild award.

Issues of *JEAN* normally run around 200 pages or more and contain articles on a variety of American Colonial numismatic topics. The upcoming December issue will contain extensive research on the Fugio coinage and restrikes. Since 1960, almost every major advance in our understanding of the history of Fugio restrikes has appeared in *CNL*. The December issue of *JEAN* continues this tradition with major articles completely rewriting our understanding of this coinage.

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## SOME NOTES ON THE JOHN LAW COINAGE

(Harry Rescigno)

French coinage issued during the pre-federal American period is of the utmost importance. Within this coinage is the interesting French coinage of 1719-1720, the John Law Coinage. During this period, the Scottish economist John Law controlled all of the French mints, of which there were 27. Those interested in more information on John Law can easily obtain such by searching John Law, or John Law and the Mississippi Bubble.

In collecting John Law Coinage, I have taken a conservative view. I am collecting only the copper coinage of 1719-1720 and the silver coinage of 1720. I have decided to follow the recommendations of Michael Hodder in the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection Sale, Part XIII, Stack's January 16, 2006. He gives what he believes to be a type table of the John Law Coinage. So I only collect the coins issued when John Law's company, The Company of the Indies, actually controlled the French Mints from July 25, 1719 to January 5, 1721.

I recommend that a collector of this material purchase a copy of the John J. Ford Collection, Part XIII. Besides Michael Hodder's historical information, the catalog includes 80 John Law coins that made up the Ford Collection. The catalogue also contains Ford's collection of medals pertaining to John Law.

My main reference for collecting John Law Coins is Monnaies Royales Francaises 1610-1792 by Victor Gadoury, 2012 edition, printed in Monaco. This is one of the main references for the coinages of Louis XIII, Louis XIV, Louis XV and Louis XVI. This book is currently available on the website of Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Book Dealers.

Gadoury does an excellent job of listing the mints of issue for all of the John Law Coins. Pricing is given in 3 grades, as is some idea of rarity. However, as we know, rarity can fluctuate as new examples are located and pricing is dependent on the usual circumstances: color, surfaces, dents, cleaning, and so on.

Then we have an old friend. Standard Catalogue of World Coins, 1701-1800. I currently have the 7th edition. I have a three-decade history of using KM Numbers. A good reference for a quick search of engravers and privy marks. It also has actual mintages for some of the coins, but the pricing is not very accurate, in my opinion.

Other references that can contribute to the knowledge of John Law Coins are:

*A Guide Book of US Coins* (Red Book)  
*Charlton Catalogue of Canadian Coins*  
*Complete Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins*. Walter Breen

Articles in the *C4 Newsletter* by Martin L. Smith and Jeff Rock provide important, in-depth, knowledge of John Law's copper output. Information that I have not been able to obtain from other sources.



My collection consists of 39 coins. Early on I decided to have any John Law Coins that I collected certified. This has limited my collecting, as most John Law coins available have problems that eliminate them for certification. The vast majority of my coins have been purchased from European dealers.

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| France      | 20 coins |
| USA         | 4 coins  |
| Canada      | 4 coins  |
| Belgium     | 4 coins  |
| Germany     | 3 coins  |
| Sweden      | 2 coins  |
| Switzerland | 2 coins  |

Obviously, Europe is the place to go to locate this material.

Availability, by type, after 4 years of collecting: The 1719-1720 coppers are usually available by type on the European dealers' websites. Currently for 1719 there are no liards for sale, one demi-sol and six sols. Most in low grades, or with problems. 1720 shows five liards, six demi-sols and three sols. Again, most in low grades.

Concerning the 1720 silver coins the 1/6th Ecu de France & Navarre (20 Sols) and the 1/6th Ecu de France (30 Sols) are always available in multiple examples. Likewise, there are examples of the 1/3rd Ecu Petit Louis d'argent and the 1/3rd Ecu de France. Usually, different mint marks of these four coins are available. The Livre d'argent is very scarce. Usually, one is listed and that coin seems to sell quickly. There is currently one listed for about \$500.

Here is something most interesting. Gadoury lists 2 mints for the 1720 1/12th Ecu de France & Navarre and 9 mints for the 1/12th Ecu de France. Most are listed as rare. I would have to agree. In nearly four years of searching, I have yet to see one for sale anywhere. Another extremely rare John Law issue is the Demi-Ecu. I have seen one for sale in four years and that was in a European Auction catalog. The Ecu de France, the largest silver John Law issue, is very scarce. I have seen four or five for sale and was lucky enough to purchase one that was returned as AU 58 by PCGS. The gold is all very scarce to rare and seldom offered. By far John Law Coins are to be found on dealer price lists. Not many come up in auctions.

So, you say, this is all very interesting, but I have never seen a 1720 French Coin, let alone purchased one. Where do I go to find these? My favorites places are NummisBids and MASHops.de. NummisBids list upcoming auctions for about 30 days in the future. It has a very good search engine. Most auction houses will allow bids to be placed through NummisBids. MASHops.de is a large cyber-bourse of mostly European dealers. It has a great search engine and many of Europe's major dealers list coins on this site, this includes many of the largest French coin dealers.

One final thought. My collection of John Law Coins is part of a larger collection of French, English, Dutch, Spanish and Spanish Colonial coins that circulated in pre-federal America. Outside of the John Law coppers the coins must be silver and dated during the pre-federal period; 1607, the founding of Jamestown, and 1788, the last year of the Articles of Confederation. These foreign coins, as well as others, were the normal forms of money that the people in the streets of early



America would come in contact with every day. I find these coins to be a wonderful collecting area, I hope many of you will too.

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## **SEPTEMBER 12, 2020 INTERVIEW WITH DOUG MUDD, ANA CURATOR AND MONEY MUSEUM DIRECTOR**

(Jeff Burke)

### **Introduction**

ANA Curator and Money Museum Director Doug Mudd kindly took the time to respond to my questions about his work at the ANA as well as his own collecting interests. I conducted a Q & A interview with Doug through an exchange of e-mails in August and September 2020.

Fortunately, I had the opportunity to attend the ANA Summer Seminar in 2010, 2011 and 2012. I made several trips to the Money Museum each summer between classes. My favorite pieces were the pattern coins and gold coin holdings. What an experience!

### **Questions**

**Q: During one of the ANA Summer Seminars that I attended, I remember you telling me that your father was an American diplomat and that your family lived in many countries around the world during your formative years. How did living in nations such as Peru, Bolivia, the Philippines, Syria, and other places help shape your identity as a young numismatist?**

A: First off, a major factor was that my initial exposure to coins as a collecting interest was not U.S. coins. I first noticed coins as a 10-year old following my dad around as he visited coin shops and street vendors in La Paz, Bolivia. I was fascinated by the Spanish Colonial coins we saw – and my first coin was a tiny silver Spanish *quartillo* (1/4 real) with a tower on one side and a llama on the other...Afterward, I began to collect world and ancient coins when we moved to Damascus, Syria, which had an abundance of ancient ruins – especially Roman. I did not begin



to collect U.S. coins until I was 14 or so, when I got my first Whitman cent album and began to try to fill it from circulation and, occasionally, with purchases from the local coin shop.

**Q: What were some of the colonial era specimens of greatest interest to you during your work as Collection Manager of the Smithsonian's National Numismatic Collection?**

A: The colonial items that most attracted my attention at that time were the paper money notes and the Comitia Americana medals. The pieces I remember best are the 1690 Massachusetts note – first note to be issued by a government in the West – an amazing piece of history – and interesting because they were successful, so that the only surviving examples are “raised” notes. The Smithsonian specimen was originally a 2s6d note raised to 20s. The other note was a 2/3 dollar from Maryland, issued in 1775 – a great example of the importance of messages on money. It is a typical colonial note – the verbiage is all standard – issued by the colonial legislature as loyal subjects of the king. The images, however tell a different story – they show a town being bombarded by British ships while King George III sets fire to the town and tramples the Magna Carta; meanwhile, Liberty (representing America) presents a petition to a blindfolded Britannia while troops march forward behind her – an interesting piece of propaganda!

**Q: How has COVID-19 changed your curatorial strategies for designing exhibits slated for the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum in Colorado Springs or other nationwide locations?**

A: We have accelerated the process of creating more virtual exhibits and programs as we wait for the opportunity to reopen our doors to the public. This includes working to expand our on-line collection catalog as well as adding more articles and related material about our collections and wonderful hobby.

**Q: What brings you the most joy in your work as Curator / Museum Director of the Money Museum?**

A: Creating exhibits that inspire a sense of learning and wonder in visitors – I really enjoy seeing when people experience the fascination of learning something new as they view one of my exhibits or attend one of my presentations.

**Q: What is your current collecting focus?**

A: Most recently I have been more interested in early American and world medals. They are, even more than coins or paper currency, history in your hands and, with their larger size, they often feature beautiful designs produced by first-class engravers, with more elaborate messages and stories to tell than most coins.

**Q: What research have you conducted on colonial era coins, paper currency and tokens? Did you encounter any surprises? Do you reference this research in your new ANA podcast “Two Bits”?**

A: I am fascinated by the wide variety of currency used in the English colonies and have written quite a bit about them. The most focused period of research I have done on the subject was in 2004 and 2005 when I was working on the “Barter, Bits and Dollars” exhibit for the ANA, which covered the history of money in the English colonies from the earliest days of settlement to the Revolution. The exhibit featured cases on the foreign coins in use – from Spanish colonial coins,



Dutch Lion Daalders, Portuguese gold – to the Massachusetts coinage, including a spectacular example of the “NE shilling” and the whole series of colonial tokens. A lot of my research has focused on the circulation of Spanish colonial coins and how they revolutionized trade across the globe. I have produced many columns for *The Numismatist* on colonial subjects from colonial paper, tokens and medals to the most recent on Franco-American jetons.

**Q: Describe the genesis for your acclaimed book *All the Money in the World*, published in 2006. Remarkably, you were able to provide coverage of coins and paper money from antiquity to 21<sup>st</sup> century pieces!**

A: The book started with a phone conversation while I was at the Smithsonian Institution in 2001. It turned out that Les Krantz, book publisher/packager was looking for a source for images for a new book on the history of money – focusing on paper currency – that he wanted to find a writer for. After speaking with him for a while, he asked me if I would be interested, and I said yes. I already had a great general background in history from my childhood experiences and my education at the College of William & Mary, plus, I was then starting work on my MA from George Mason University. So, I began to write the book from home and photograph objects from the National Numismatic Collection (NNC) with permission from my boss at the time (I was the Collection Manager and the photographer for the NNC and routinely photographed objects for publication), while Les began to work with the Smithsonian Books department. In 2003, after more than 18 months in trying to work out a deal with SI Books, Les gave up and the project went dormant – except that I was more than halfway done with the writing and had taken more than 80% of the photos I needed.

Fast forward to mid-2005, when I received an inquiry at the ANA about getting images for a book project (I was the photographer and curator for the ANA Money Museum) – and it turned out it was for the same book! I reconnected, and he once again asked me if I was interested. I said yes, and the rest was history. For the next six months I spent much of my time at home completing the writing and editing images, then three months or so reviewing proofs while Les searched for a publisher. Amazingly, Smithsonian Books had been outsourced to Houghton Mifflin – and they were interested in publishing the book as part of their new series of books based on Smithsonian collections. The book had come full circle!

**Q: What are your favorite colonial coins and paper money specimens at the Money Museum?**

A: My favorite colonial objects in the ANA collection include the nice series of tokens from the Confederation period—especially a nice Massachusetts cent and half cent and a great run of Vermont and New Jersey tokens. We have a small but nice selection of the Mass silver, as well, including an Oak Tree two pence.

**Q: If you could go back in time and give one piece of advice to yourself when you were just starting out as a collector, what would it be?**

A: Tough one—I have enjoyed my collecting experience... perhaps I would tell my 12 to 13-year-old self to focus on Greek and Roman coinage while I was living in Damascus, Syria...





## COLONIAL COINS: AN UNEXPECTED FRIEND DURING TOUGH TIMES

(Patrick McBride)

Hobbies bring people joy during the toughest of times. They have the unique ability to allow family members across many years, or generations, to connect. Coin collecting is a passion that has run in my family for several generations and has been a part of my life as long as I can remember.

My relationship with numismatics began in a similar way as many, searching through small change looking for a rare variety to fit in my type book. My parents would always include a special coin as a gift on a birthday or Christmas until I had most of the common United States varieties (within reason) in my collection. My sister was gifted a Virginia halfpenny one year for Christmas and I did not think much of it at first other than the fact that it was a pre-federal coin with excellent eye appeal.

Being raised in the Philadelphia area, and developing a passion for history, I have always been fascinated by the Revolutionary war. Growing up my family would make frequent trips to Valley Forge and we would spend time inside the recreated Continental Army barracks and Washington's borrowed home that he used as a command center. It was not as lavish as you may think. The Franklin Institute in downtown Philadelphia was also a family favorite and we would marvel at Ben Franklin's ingenuity and passion for science (he is my favorite founding father of course!). With all this considered it was only a matter of time before my passions for coin collecting and early American history merged.

In a similar fashion to many people, my life in my 20's became busy with college, graduate school and other adultlike responsibilities. I found the love of my life and moved to Boston to work in the healthcare field. Another place rich in early US history, I would often run along the Charles River and picture a young Ben Franklin playing with his friends on the riverbed. However due to my pace of life, coin collecting took a backseat. Other than the occasional small acquisition not much thought was given to my hobby.

Right around my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, and a few months before my wedding, my life changed in an instant. I had become more and more fatigued on those runs by Ben Franklin's old stomping grounds which concerned me enough to see a physician. One test lead to another which ultimately lead to an advanced cancer diagnosis. Many of us are going through tough times now, so I am sure you are aware of some of the range of emotions I was feeling. There was sadness, anger, and anxiety. No longer able to do a lot of the things I found joyful I needed to find an outlet to occupy my mind and bring happiness. My father had been interested in colonial coins for some time, and purchased *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins* for me to read while I recovered from my surgery and started chemotherapy. From the very instant I opened the book I couldn't put it down. I read to cover to cover multiple times and then expanded by colonial coin library (Newman's "The 1776 Continental Currency Coinage: Varieties of the Fugio Cent" to name one). I discovered the wealth of online literature, societies dedicated to the collection of Colonial currency (such as this one), and auctions filled with wonderful specimens (maybe to my bank account's peril!). Reading about the unique history of each piece, and making the occasional

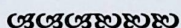


purchase, provided a distraction and the little bit of joy I needed. More than any other type of US coinage, Colonial coins have rich and diverse stories associated with them and with a big enough imagination you can be transported to a different place in time and space. Where else can you find the range of private citizen minted coins (such as Higley and Chalmers), proposed federal patterns that were destined to fail (Nova Costellatio Coppers and Continental Currency), to propaganda pieces (Rhode Island Ship Medal) being traded for goods and services in the marketplace. What I wouldn't pay to see the "register" of a Boston shop keeper in the late 1700's and what prizes it contained! Along with the loving support of my wife, family and dog these Colonial coins and stories kept me going.

Numismatics doesn't excite everyone but for those that are interested it can bring great joy. 2020 will be a year that everyone remembers and many of us are going through trying times. My advice to the readers out there is to remember the people (and activities) you love and spend as much time with them as you can.

VALUE ME AS YOU WILL (Unfortunately I am not good copper)

Patrick



## STARTING MY COLLECTION

(Frank Weisensee)

Coin collecting has occupied a significant part in my life. I still have hundreds of coins that I collected when I was young. Here is how I got started.

I started collecting Lincoln cents in a Whitman folder when I was six (6) years old. When I get older, I completed a set of early dates (except for the 1909-S VDB, 1914-D and 1922) by taking most of them out of circulation.

When I was about seven (7) years old, my grandfather would pull out a bowl from his cupboard filled with about 80 worn Indian Head cents that he had taken out of circulation. A few years later he gave them all to me. Most were common dates in just good condition. I fell in love with Indian Head cents. When I was about thirty years old I completed the entire set.

I started collecting Walking Liberty half dollars when I was about eight (8) years old. My grandmother would give me one of the more common date half dollars almost every time she visited us.

My parents opened up a bakery / grocery store in 1950. My mother would get a few old Liberty nickels, Barber dimes and Barber quarters in change and set them aside. One year my



father's cousin worked in the store and gave me my first RedBook. The store closed around 1960. After the store was closed, my mother gave all those old coins to me (10 nickels, 5 dimes and 3 quarters).

My family occasionally went to Seaside Heights to walk the boardwalk. When I was about nine (9) to twelve (12) years old they would let me go alone to play the games in the arcades. However, what I actually did there was take my dollars and ask the cashiers for quarters. After picking out the old Liberty Standing quarters, I would give the other quarters back to the cashiers and ask for dimes. After picking out the old Mercury Head dimes, I would give the other dimes back to the cashiers and ask for nickels. After picking out the old Buffalo nickels, I would give the other nickels back to the cashiers and ask for quarters. This would continue to go on for a while until I decided to move onto the next arcade.

At eleven (11) years old, I was walking and found a Mercury dime on the ground. After looking at the 1942 date, I noticed that there was a "41" under the "42" in the date. However, not realizing the rare coin I had found, I continued walking to my favorite comic book store and spent it on a ten cent comic book.

When I was about twelve (12) years old, my grandfather gave me a worn 1899 one dollar bill. He called it a "horse blanket," and said that he got it out of circulation when he was young. This sparked my interest in collecting paper money.

I used to mow lawns, but when I turned thirteen (13) years old, I got a summer job working at a produce / nursery market. All of us waited on customers, got plenty of good tips and we all worked the cash register. Whenever a customer payed with an old dollar bill, I would put it aside in the cash register. At the end of the day I would get to swap the old bills out with my tip money.

At thirteen (13) years old, I started buying coins. I frequently road my bike three miles to the only local coin shop in town. This is when I bought my first large cent for three dollars. It was an 1833 in a scuzzy VG condition. It is an N-2.5 variety with a double profile with a partially rotated die.

My father died when I was fourteen (14). He gave me a dollar bill the night before he died. That dollar is still in my collection. My grandmother later gave me an 1876-S Seated Liberty quarter. She told me that my father received it in change from an "egg lady" (owner of a New Jersey chicken farm) when he was just a kid.

My grandfather also gave me two Shield nickels (dated 1867 and 1882) and three Liberty nickels (all dated 1883) that he once taken out of circulation.

At around sixteen (16) years old, the local bank was still giving out Morgan silver dollars to customers, but only if you asked for them. You could only get one per visit. I went back to the bank several times and collected a few.

When I was about eighteen (18) years old (in 1968) my grandfather asked me to give him all the silver quarters that I could find in circulation. At that time, I was dating a girl who was a waitress at a pancake house. Her tips were usually all in quarters. She became my source for silver quarters. She would get so many silver quarters that she thought it was silly for my grandfather to save them.



I had a full-time summer job all through high school and college working on a surveying crew for an engineering company, but my paycheck always went to my mother, or to pay for gas for my car and to help pay for college. Collecting coins stopped when I went to college because it was not a priority. It took just a few years after college to get the bug again. Collecting has never stopped since.

In 1980 my grandfather passed away. I inherited all of those silver quarters that I had gotten for him years earlier. I sold my grandfather's silver quarters and invested all that money into coin collecting. It was in then in June of 1982 that I started collecting colonial coins when I bought my first New Jersey Copper, a 33-U variety in VF-25 for \$150. I have been buying colonial coins ever since.

Frank Weisensee, C4, ANA, EAC, WCC



## Early American Coppers



If you have an interest in Early American Copper Cents, Half Cents, Tokens, Medals etc., Please visit our web page and consider joining this prestigious Club.

***Penny-Wise***-Our award winning Quarterly Journal

**EAC Website**-Exclusive Member Section

References, Videos, Club Activities

**Annual Convention**-Members meet every spring to share information, interests and friendships

**Region 8 Email Publication**-Member information in an easy to read weekly blast

**Copper Notes**, Large Cent, Halfcent and Dark side Facebook Groups for deep discussions.

**EAC yearly dues are \$39.00. A junior membership (under 18) is available for \$5.00**

**Join today by visiting [www.eacs.org](http://www.eacs.org)**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **C4 Membership Dues**

Annual dues are currently \$30.00 for Regular Membership (\$40 if residing outside the United States) and \$10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age; \$15 if non-US resident.) They are payable on a calendar year basis... due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the *C4 Newsletter* envelope. Life Memberships can be purchased for 25 times the annual membership cost, or \$750.00. You may mail checks (made out to "C4") to: Charlie Rohrer, C4 Treasurer; PO Box 25; Mountville, PA 17554

Thank you for paying in a timely manner... It makes his job easier and will be much appreciated!

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### **C4 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medals**



A limited number of medals are still available. Individual copper medals can be purchased for \$13, and silver (one ounce, .999 silver) medals can be purchased for \$43, or a set containing one of each for \$48. These prices include postage.

If included along with an initial order, above, additional individual copper and silver medals are \$8 and \$35, respectively. Additional sets can be purchased for \$40 per set as long as they are included with an initial order, to save on postage.

Checks should be made payable to C4 and mailed to Charlie Rohrer, C4 treasurer, P.O. Box 25, Mountville, PA, 17554.

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## **NEW JERSEY COPPER SYMPOSIUM APRIL 2021**

(Ray Williams)

It was 30 years ago, April 20, 1991, that the first NJ Copper Symposium was held in Wayne, New Jersey. It was a two day event hosted in the office of John Lorenzo. There were about a dozen attendees, with the event being moderated by John Griffiee. Bill Anton brought



material to share and John Lorenzo passed out a sort of workbook, having one variety per page for us to make notes within. It took two days to discuss each variety individually.

After C4 came into existence and conventions started in 1995, a number of NJ Copper Symposiums were held where collectors could share information, get to know each other and have fun. I miss those days!

To commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event, a NJ Copper Symposium will be held in April 2021. This is just in the initial planning stages. It will most likely be held the weekend before or after April 20<sup>th</sup>, for better attendance. It might be possible for a few of us to get together in person and then use ZOOM to get the participation of NJ enthusiasts across the country.

I have started a list of those interested in this event and will keep them informed as plans are made. To get your name on the list, please send me an email ([njraywms@optonline.net](mailto:njraywms@optonline.net)) with NJ Symposium in the subject line, and your name in the text, in case I don't recognize it by the email address. I'll send an acknowledgement that I received it. Plans won't start until after the New Year, but if you have any questions, email or call me at 609-647-4958.

Have fun!

## **IMPORTANT TO ALL EAC 's Colonial Happening March 21, 2021 3:00 PM on ZOOM**

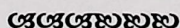
(Ray Williams)

In addition to all those collecting colonial coins, I'd like to invite the rest of my EAC friends to participate or just watch the Colonial Happening this year. The Fugio Coppers and State Coppers are the parents, aunts and uncles of the Large Cents and their "Little Half Sisters." No Large/Half Cent collection should be without a Fugio and a Mass Cent & Half Cent. But please just show up and enjoy, be entertained and participate if you like.

For my colonial collecting friends...This is the second year that we meet virtually. Hopefully next year we can see each other in person. This event will again be similar to past years – a time of sharing with no competition. I'd like to see anyone post images of colonial/confederation era coins, medals or paper money. A brief explanation of what it is and/or a question you might have about it and/or just something you really find interesting or enjoy.

Some may feel they are unable to share images or don't know how. If you are among those, please email me at [njraywms@optonline.net](mailto:njraywms@optonline.net) and I can try to help you. You can also send me images and I can post them for you. If you would like to have a practice ZOOM meeting to see what it's like and how it works, I'll set one up for just the two of us to experiment. Contact me.

I hope to have as many people enjoying the time as possible. As I write this, there is nothing scheduled for 4:00. So if we run over time-wise, there won't be a problem.





## **Newman Numismatic Portal Symposium Videos Available**

Videos from the recently conducted Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP) Symposium are now available on the Newman Numismatic Portal at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/multimediatdetail/539070>. The NNP Symposium, held August 28-30, featured an online series of numismatic presentations over a three-day period. The event, which drew over a thousand registrants, included forty-one sessions and presented a wide array of content, including American, world, and ancient numismatics. This event was produced by Lianna Spurrier of Numismatic Marketing, under sponsorship of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society.



Attendee input was enthusiastic, with one viewer noting "Drive time was very short, parking was free, food options were plentiful and reasonably priced, and overnight accommodations were like sleeping in my own bed." Another commented "I just want to tell you what a fabulous event the Symposium was, as I'm sure you have heard a hundred times. It was an oasis in the COVID-19 desert. It got the coin collecting juices flowing again for those of us hunkered down waiting for the next show." Other comments received included "These last three days were the closest I've come to having a coin convention experience since before the coronavirus hit"

and "The NNP hit a homerun with its effort. The symposium was such a success that I hope the NNP makes this an annual event."

Popular sessions included Greg Rohan, of Heritage Auctions, who discussed the impact of the COVID epidemic on the numismatic market. Charles Morgan presented on "Five Ways to Modernize the Rare Coin Market," while Matthew Tavory and Isaiah Hagemen hosted a well-received discussion on detection of counterfeit slabs. Rounding out the most attended presentations, Robert Rodriguez spoke on the "The 1792 Morris 'So-Called' Silver Center Cent."

The growth of online numismatics mirrors that of nearly every other industry, and the unique circumstances of the present epidemic make events such as Newman Numismatic Portal Symposium particularly appropriate in the present environment. "I was encouraged to see the numismatic community come together in this way," noted Len Augsburg, Project Coordinator for the Newman Numismatic Portal. Andy Newman, Trustee of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society, commented "There appears to have been an appetite for numismatic content presented in this format, so we are encouraged to continue facilitating such events and welcome suggestions for improvement."

Comments regarding this or future events are welcome by email, at [NNPCurator@wustl.edu](mailto:NNPCurator@wustl.edu).



## **THE C4 NEWSLETTER IS ON THE NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL!**

Past issues of The C4 Newsletter, and a plethora of other important numismatic resources are now available online, through The Newman Numismatic Portal, at:

[www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic](http://www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic)

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### **RESOURCE FOR THE C4 NEWSLETTER**

Our C4 Newsletter now has an index available on our website at [www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org). There are two indexes: one by author and a second by topic/title. This is a beginning and the index will improve over time. We have intentions of updating the index within a week or two of every issue being shipped. We ask past authors and contributors to the C4N to please review their work in the index and forward any corrections/additions/suggestions to Ray Williams at [njraywms@optonline.net](mailto:njraywms@optonline.net) or call.

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### **Important Vermont Ryder-3 Study**

Mark Vitunic and Jim Glickman are conducting a study of Vermont Ryder-3 specimens with planchet/striking peculiarities such as oblongness and partial doubling as described in Carlotto. This effort will hopefully lead to a C4NL article. We are asking C4 members to please email us photos + weight of ANY Ryder-3 specimen that you own or are aware of which is NOT currently listed in the HA/SB archives. Your anonymity guaranteed. Thank you! [mvitunic@gmail.com](mailto:mvitunic@gmail.com), [jamesglickman1@gmail.com](mailto:jamesglickman1@gmail.com).

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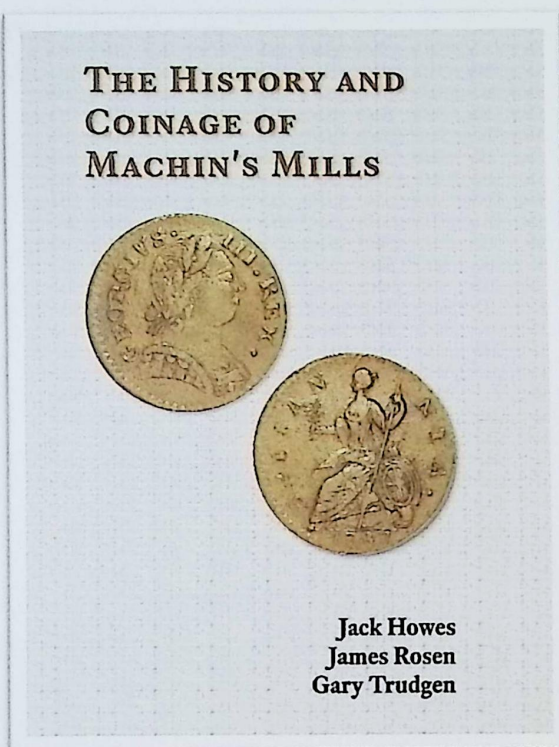
The American Numismatic Society lacks just 10 pieces of Continental Currency for a complete set. If you would like to donate to the study collection, please contact Curator of the Americas, Jesse Kraft, at [jkraft@numismatics.org](mailto:jkraft@numismatics.org). The missing notes are as follows:

February 26, 1777, \$2, Friedberg.55 — May 20, 1777 \$4 Friedberg.65 — May 20, 1777, \$5, Friedberg.66 — May 20, 1777, \$7, Friedberg.68 — May 20, 1777, \$8, Friedberg.69 — April 11, 1778, \$6, Friedberg.73 — April 11, 1778, \$7, Friedberg.74 — April 11, 1778, \$8, Friedberg.75 — April 11, 1778, \$20, Friedberg.76 — April 11, 1778, \$40, Friedberg.78



The Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4) announces the latest in its series of publications – **The History and Coinage of Machin's Mills** by Jack Howes, James Rosen, and Gary Trudgen.

When writing a book about coins that have been surrounded for generations by mystery and controversy regarding their sponsors, manufacturers, places and dates of origin, it became inherently obvious that we needed to describe these coins in detail and examine the lives and times of the personalities responsible for their creation during the closing years of the Confederation Period. Not only was it essential to clear up old ideas and to set the records straight, but it seemed necessary to expand our thinking about these coins which have weaved their way into our consciousness of pre-federal coppers.



So begins this new book on the coinage of Machin's Mills. The work, in octavo, is casebound and sewn with a photographic laminate cover, 286 pages and is profusely illustrated in color. It is available immediately for \$65 (plus shipping) from either Charles Davis, P.O. Box 1, Wenham, Mass 01984 or Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers LLC., 141 W. Johnstown Rd. Gahanna, OH 43230.

**David Fanning on this new work:**

"The first book-length study of the intriguing series of coppers issued by various parties associated with Thomas Machin. Includes coverage not only of the series collected as Machin's Mills coppers, but also of those Vermont, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts coppers that are linked to this New York operation."

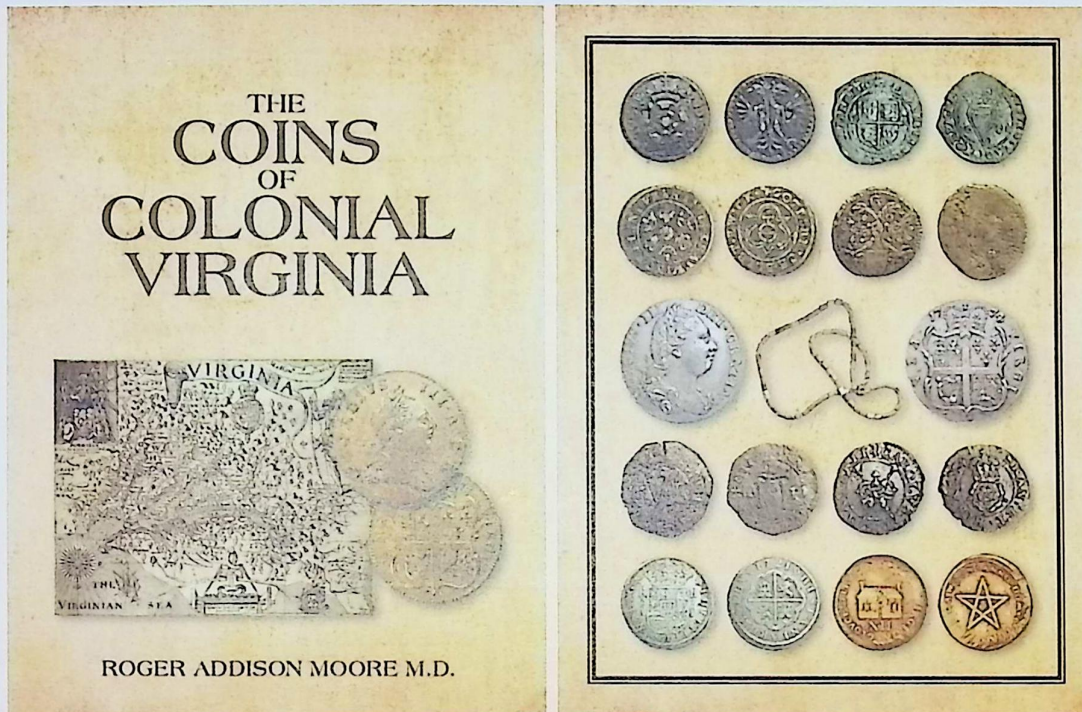
**Charles Davis comments on a draft copy:**

"It is obvious that the book is well researched, the photos appear top notch, and the variety descriptions exhaustive--it is an impressive piece of work."

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***C4 Proudly Announces a New Book  
By Roger A. Moore!***



The growth and development of Virginia into one of the most important North American colonies can be traced by the economic evolution of the Dominion State as it attempted to gain the necessary hard currency needed for commerce. The history surrounding the introduction of various coinages and the use of tobacco as a commodity currency over the 150 years leading up to the final authorization of the production of Virginia halfpence in 1773 is fascinating. Equally as absorbing are the twists, turns and dead ends encountered by the Virginia colonists as they sought authorization from the English Crown for their own coinage. It is ironic that the long-desired copper Virginia halfpence finally provided to Virginia under Warrant from King George III became available to the colonists only fifty days before the beginning of the American Revolution.

In addition to exploring the historic context in which colonial Virginia struggled to obtain hard currency, methods are provided for attributing and collecting the 30 known die varieties of the 1773 copper Virginia halfpence. The book also enumerates the specifics of the Virginia halfpence metrology, rarity, and grading, as well as their numerous forgeries, facsimiles, fantasies and oddities. Virginia halfpence can be appreciated and collected in nearly uncirculated condition and are important additions to any collection of American colonial coins.



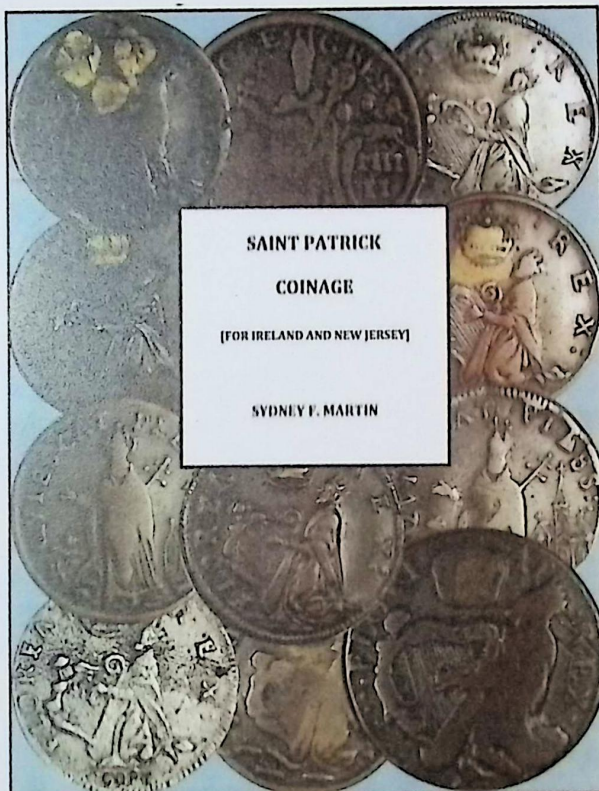
Obverse Matrix of the Virginia halfpence

Price: \$95. Available beginning at the C4 Convention, November 14-17, 2019, from Charles Davis. Orders may be placed at Post Office Box 1; Wenham, MA 01984. Telephone: (978) 468 - 2933; Fax (978) 468 - 7893; E-mail: numislit@aol.com; Business Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - -5:00 EST.



## Last Year the Colonial Coin Collectors Club Released The Definitive Book on the St. Patrick Coinage by Sydney F. Martin

Boston – May 27, 2018, The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, (C4), released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *Saint Patrick Coinage for Ireland and New Jersey*. This is the fourth book published by C4 that has been written by Syd Martin, the former editor of the *C4 Newsletter* and current President of The American Numismatic Society. His other works are *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*, and *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*. These books are all considered the standard references for these series today. Syd's latest work covers a series that has long vexed researchers on both sides of the Atlantic – the St. Patrick coinage. In researching this book Syd traveled to Ireland and spent many hours in the archives in New Jersey in search of clues, discovering some fascinating answers and developing several new theories regarding the coinage. This coinage has long been shrouded in mystery as to when and where it was made, and for what purpose. Syd discusses the theories that have been proposed so far, and the pros and cons of each plus some exciting new theories of his own.



According to Lou Jordan, the Curator of Numismatic Collections for the University of Notre Dame, this book is “groundbreaking!” Phil Mossman, former editor of *The Colonial Newsletter (CNL)*, writes that “Syd has described in detail the visual imagery and icons symbolized on these coins by hand-engraved dies. A total of 197 varieties of small St. Patrick coins have been meticulously cataloged by him and presented in an easy to follow format.” Mossman went on to state that “the nine varieties of large St. Patrick coppers, identified as a separate entity, are equally well presented.” Christopher McDowell, editor of *CNL*, states that “this is the most important book on colonial numismatics to be published in many years. It is doubtful that this book will ever be surpassed in its coverage of the series. If you collect St. Patrick coinage or are interested in colonial numismatics, this book is a must-have.”

In many ways this work is a collaborative effort, helped by many collectors who shared access to their St. Patrick collections for Syd to examine and photograph. The result is the first complete and illustrated catalogue of all known varieties in the series; unlike Syd's earlier three books, this one features color photographs. Other topics covered include the manufacturing history of the coins, literary discussion of the series, a history of their circulation in America, and a fascinating Appendix that includes what Syd calls “Miscellany.” According to Phil Mossman, what Syd calls “Miscellany” is actually “well-researched inquiries into the lineage of an elusive series.” C4 is very proud to publish this book and its long association with Syd Martin.



The 528-page book is hardbound, with color illustrations throughout of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket. *Saint Patrick Coinage: For Ireland and New Jersey*, by Sydney F. Martin, is available for \$95 for C4 members or \$125 for nonmembers of C4, plus \$7.25 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (numisbook.com,) Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.

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The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :  
<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob> ..  
<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfd5ZR~x~8=>

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The Colonial Coin Collectors Club announces a 2<sup>nd</sup> printing:  
***CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT HALFPENNY AND  
FARTHING FAMILIES, 2<sup>nd</sup> PRINTING***

By Roger Moore, Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis, David Palmer, Jeff Rock, Rickie Rose, Clem Schettino, and Byron Weston

This monograph is the start of an effort to organize and bring structure to this area of colonial numismatics: it breaks down the vast number of different varieties into related groups called Families. A Family of contemporary counterfeits is a group of coins that likely came from the same minting operation at about the same time. Families are logical groups that share one or more of the following attributes: dies, die making punches, or similarities in the design style. This updated large format, glossy hardcover, 294 pages and profusely illustrated in color will be available in July for \$54.95 from Barnes & Noble, Amazon books, and other mass market retailers. Check specifically for ISBN 978-1-64255-857-9.

Comments on *Contemporary Counterfeit  
Halfpenny and Farthing Families*:

Jim Rosen, Past President, Colonial Coin  
Collectors Club, Inc.:

"Finally, a wonderful and badly needed reference book of extraordinary importance that for the first time begins the monumental task of putting order to the unorganized field of counterfeit halfpence and farthings."

**Contemporary Counterfeit  
Halfpenny & Farthing Families**

By Roger Moore, Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis,  
David Palmer, Jeff Rock, Rickie Rose, Clem Schettino, and Byron Weston



This book is the start of an effort to organize and bring structure to this area of colonial numismatics.



## FRENCH COINAGE SPECIFICALLY FOR COLONIAL AMERICA

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, C4, released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*. This is the third colonial coin book published by C4 written by Syd Martin. Other works include *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood* and *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*. The Rosa and Hibernia books are now considered standard references for those coinages and Syd's long-awaited new book is expected to become the leading reference works on French Coinage minted for circulation in North America. According to Lou Jordan, the curator of numismatic collections for the University of Notre Dame, "Sid Martin has written the definitive catalog of French coinage authorized specifically for use in North America." Jordan went on to state that "this is an essential book for anyone interested in the French coinage of colonial North America."

"What many early American coin collectors fail to recognize," Martin said upon the book's release, "is that from the 16th century until 1763, New France included much of what is now the United States, as well as most of Canada. As such, coins minted by France for circulation in its North American colonies should be considered 'coins of the realm' in these areas." Colonial numismatic expert, John Kraljevich, went on to explain that "the history of the French in what is today the United States is largely forgotten. However, the memory of these people and their coinage has been long cherished in Canada."

Jim Rosen, president of C4, predicts that "Martin's new book will awaken an interest in both the history of the French speaking people in North American and the coins they used such as the *Gloriam Regni* coins of 1670, the 6 and 12-denier copper coins minted in 1717, and the copper 9-denier coins from 1721 and 22, all of which were struck in France specifically for circulation in the Americas."

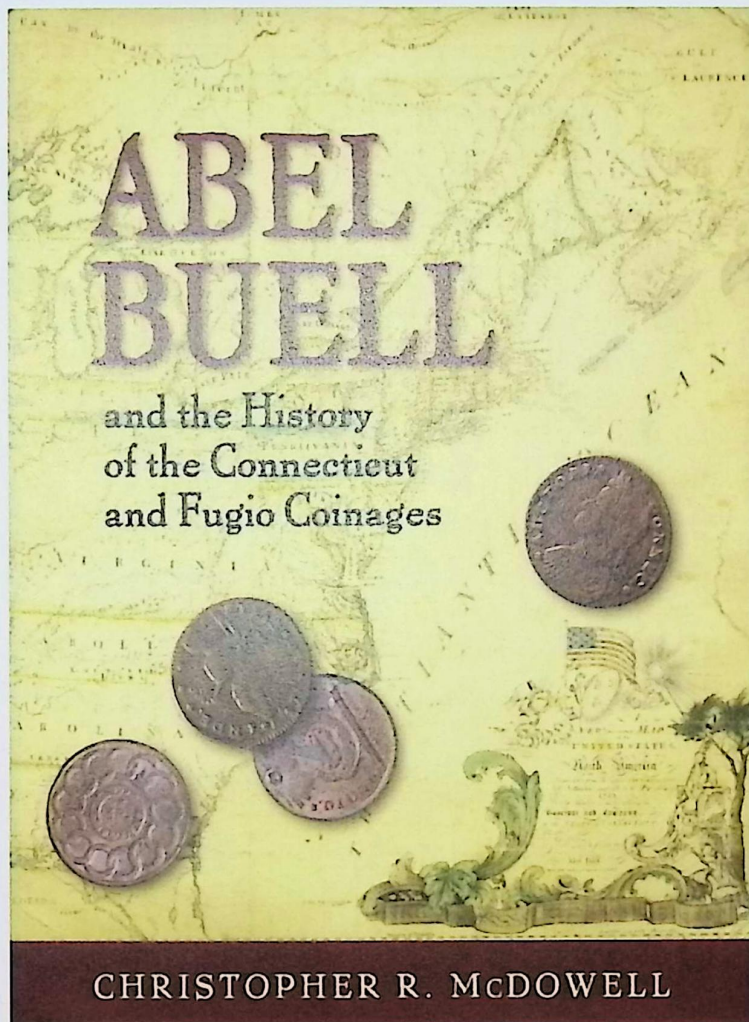
In the book's introduction, John Kraljevich writes that, "With Crosby-like flair, Syd has marshaled together the original documents that tell the stories of these coinages. Most have never been published at all, let alone in English or all in one place. This original research guarantees this work's importance to researchers in every forthcoming generation. The heart of this book, the die studies, offers several pathways for collectors to navigate these series, by basic type, by major variety, by die combination, or even by die state. It's a project that no one has ever even attempted before, an outlier in the world of colonial numismatics, a field that has seen multiple die studies of most of the popular series. Given Syd's well-organized approach and the thousands of coins he's studied, it may be generations before this work is supplanted. It's doubtful anyone will ever do it any better."

The 480-page book is hardbound, well-illustrated throughout with photographs of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket depicting French Coinage. The book is available for \$85.00 plus \$7.00 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (<http://www.numisbook.com/>), Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.

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**Support the C4 Club education initiatives buy this book:**



**In stock from Charles Davis Numismatic Literature:**

Charles Davis  
Numismatic Literature  
PO Box 1  
Wenham, MA 01984

or by phone at (978) 468-2933  
or via email: [charlesdavis@vcoins.com](mailto:charlesdavis@vcoins.com)



## C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at [www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org). These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis' website: [www.numisbook.com](http://www.numisbook.com).

(1) Howes, Jack, Rosen, James and Trudgen, Gary. *The History and Coinage of Machin's Mills*, Coin Collectors Club, 2021. Price: \$65. This title also available from Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers. See announcement above.

(2) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002. Price: \$10.

(3) McDowell, Christopher R., *Abel Buell and the History of the Connecticut and Fugio Coinages*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. Price \$85.

(4) Martin, Sydney. *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2016. Price \$85.

(5) Martin, Sydney. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007. Price: \$50.

(6) Martin, Sydney. *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2012. Price \$50.

(7) Martin, Sydney. *St. Patrick Coinage for Ireland and New Jersey*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2018. Price \$95.

(8) Moore, Roger, *The Coins of Colonial Virginia*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2019, Price \$95.

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## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your Regional VP or the President of the Club, Craig McDonald. The new provisional members are:

|                     |                       |                       |                         |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Gary Braisted - FL  | Richard DeNise - NY   | James Irwin - MD      | Steven Prosser - NJ     |
| David Cohen - NY    | James Ellingwood - IN | Patrick McBride - MA  | Isabella Rupprecht - NJ |
| William Corbin - NJ | Jack Garfinkle - NJ   | Stephen Merchant - VT | Craig Sholley - PA      |
| Joseph Daragan - VA | Edward Godwin - FL    | James Podraza - PA    | John Sutton - VA        |

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I am in the process of researching information pertaining to the Talbot, Allum & Lee series. I am seeking assistance from C-4 members who may have knowledge regarding the evolution of the series and the coins that were issued. I possess the basic series including all mules. If you have any unique or off metal pieces, or a half cent struck over a Talbot piece I would love to have access to them if possible.

Please contact Arnold Miniman at [ahminiman@gmail.com](mailto:ahminiman@gmail.com), or (201) 317-4199.



## EAC PUBLISHES ECKBERG BOOK ON HALF CENTS

On May 1, 2019 Early American Coppers (EAC) proudly announced the publication of *The Half Cent, 1793-1857: The Story of America's Greatest Little Coin*, by William R. Eckberg. EAC's second book, it is an important new reference on one of the first denominations coined by the United States of America.

This book tells the story of the half cent from its antecedents and models through its first release in 1793 to its end in 1857. Why did we ever have such a small denomination, anyway? Who made them? When were they made? How many are known of each variety? How are the coins graded today? All these questions and more are clearly addressed.

This hard cover book is 8½" x 11" and profusely illustrated in full color with high resolution photos. All business strike half cent obverses and reverses are illustrated by full color 3.5" photos.

Because of the way they were made, and because they were the money of the people, half cents have a charm and character that few other denominations can have, and this charm and interest come through clearly in the book.

Eckberg says he wrote the book because much new research about the coins' design, engraving and manufacture has been developed since the Cohen and Breen books of 35 years ago, and that has allowed him to correct a number of misconceptions about the series and other early coins of the U.S. Mint. This research, much of it by the author, has come from the study of early Mint documents and the coins themselves. His study of the early half cents' manufacture has provided important new insights into the operation of the early U.S. Mint and into how other denominations were created as well.

Dr. Harry E. Salyards, editor of *Penny-Wise*, the quarterly journal of EAC, writes:

"Until now, the half cent has lacked an author able to write in an engaging conversational style while incorporating solid research evidence. As a trained scientist and lifelong teacher, Bill Eckberg is well suited to become the first to do so. Among the literature of early American copper as a whole, we have had homey narratives littered with pseudoscience, and *ex-cathedra* pronouncements aplenty. We have also had way too much 'history' written in the past subjunctive: narratives introducing each unsupported assertion with a phrase such as, 'Surely there would have been. . .'

"You will find none of that sort of thing here. What you will find is the voice of an enthusiastic collector who has made some unexpected discoveries over the course of his thirty years' pursuit of the American half cent—a fascinating and still underappreciated series."

Every collection of U.S. coins should contain at least a few half cents. Scarcer *as a denomination* than the key Lincoln cent, the 1909-S VDB, they are truly rare coins. Yet, most half cents are remarkably affordable to the average collector. A U.S. series that is both rare and affordable? Yes! Still, most collectors only know them as type coins, if at all. This book will serve



as an interesting and informative introduction to the series for those who are unfamiliar with it and will provide enough new knowledge to satisfy even the most advanced specialists.

The book is available from <http://halfcentbook.com>. The cover price is \$125, but members of EAC, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, Numismatic Bibliomania Society and the American Numismatic Association may order it for \$95 plus shipping. For quantities of 10 or more, please contact [halfcent@icloud.com](mailto:halfcent@icloud.com).

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I need help in a project that will turn into a *C4 Newsletter* article on estimating the surviving population of State Coinages. I am developing a model but need to better understand how many NJ coppers collectors hold. Only aggregated data will be used. I am looking for information on total number of NJ coppers, number recovered (dug), number purchased, and number sold in last 12 months or longer periods if available. I am looking for data from any size collections or accumulations.

**J. Howes;** 19967 East Doyle; Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; 313 319-1743

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### **Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues**

Wayne Shelby has agreed to store the back copies of the *C4 Newsletter*. People wishing to purchase back issues that are still available should send their money to our treasurer, Charlie Rohrer, whose contact data are at page 2. Upon receipt of the money, he will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are \$10 for the first and \$8 for all after that placed at the same time. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:

[dughistory@juno.com](mailto:dughistory@juno.com)

609-261-6662 (Home)

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I'm currently undertaking a comprehensive study of the Castorland jeton. I'm approaching the study from both sides of the Atlantic, relying heavily on French sources, and my study entails operational details from the manufacture of flans to the mechanical workings of the screw press; the history of jetons as they evolved from arithmetical counters to monarchical presentation pieces; events leading up to the establishment of the New York Company; the biography of Benjamin Duvivier; etc. culminating in detailed descriptions of variants struck from at least one original die. As you can see it's a big work, but I've been at it quite a few years and am wonderfully engaged in the project. Here is a "finding list" of details I'm looking for, as well as photos if possible:

1. If the specimen is in a slab, all the label information.
2. Identify the metal, gold, silver, copper, bronze. If silver, indicate thin or thick planchet.
3. If edge-stamped, identify the symbol and the lettering and location of the stamping (such as 6 o'clock relative the obverse.)
4. Die alignment: coin turn/medal turn.
5. Describe state of any reverse die failure, perceptible bulge, advanced crack, etc.
6. Describe reverse caustic incursion, sometimes identified as rust, at the right handle of the vessel.
7. Describe any other identifying factors such as rim bumps, scratches, spots, unfilled letters of legends, etc. that would help identify the piece if it were re-encapsulated at some future time.
8. Indicate the provenance, if known. If you currently own the specimen feel free to identify it ex your name for the benefit of future owners.

Please contact Chester L. Sullivan at [csull@ku.edu](mailto:csull@ku.edu).



## CLASSIFIED ADS

Grayscale ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows (color ads are 50% more in each category):

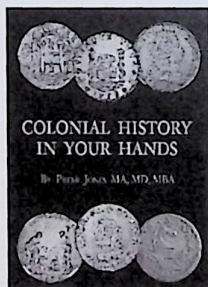
|          | 1 issue | 2 issues | 3 issues | 4 issues | Copy Size |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1 page   | \$300   | \$450    | \$600    | \$750    | 6" x 9"   |
| 1/2 page | \$175   | \$250    | \$325    | \$400    | 6" x 4.5" |

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire – generally \$200 additional.) Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.

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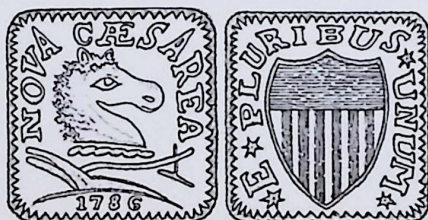

For Sale to a Good Home: Must provide References of Good Care of Colonials

Continental Currency, 2 November 1775, \$8, Choice AU, No Folds, Pinholes or any other problems
 Continental Currency, 14 January 1779, \$70, Nice AU, No Folds or Pinholes
 New York Currency 16 February 1771 £5, AU with a light fold, Bold Print, Clean Note, Small repair at front bottom center. Elaborate Top Boarder.
 1787 Conn. Mi-1.1a, F-15, smooth surfaces, Nice Coin in a collectible Grade, Small Head Type
 1787 Conn. Mi-1.1a, VF with obv roughness, net F-15, Pleasant Looking Coin, Small Head Type
 1794 Ready Reckoner, Daniel Fenning, Newburyport MA., Cover and some pages detached but all are present, contains a Coin Table.
 Also, some Non Colonials (Including Coin World Tokens) For Sale, Let me know your interests.
Call/Email for prices & pictures. Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com 215-873 1915

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1787 M 38-I.2 R4 CC? AUCIORI PCGS VF35 373.35/08508567 - 5/30,6/1/2012 Long Beach - \$910. \*\* 1787 M48-G.5 R5+ CC? PCGS VF30 370.30/33032094 - \$485. \*\* 1786 M 5.1-H.1 R6 133.4 gns XXXs Rev, Clip obv. - blue 2x2 w coin+Craige Env. Stacks 6/13 #45 - \$ 1075. \*\* 1787 M 36- L.1 R5+ 139.6 gns Obv Hi Cheek Stria - Rev Some Spotting - Craige Env from Cyril Howley, Stacks 6/2013 #97 - 3x3 clear auction flip - \$220 \*\* 1787 M37.13-HH R5 Stacks 1/13 #11249 - blue 2x2 w/coin + TED CRAIGE / STACKS 12/14/63 ENV - \$215 \*\* 1787 M38-GG AUCIORI R4 - blue 2x2 wcoin + TED CRAIGE Env, Stacks 1/2013 #11252 - \$220 \*\* Raw M 32.4 - X.5 - dark, double clip, rot. rev. - dateless - off center - R5+ - 106.3gns. - \$200 \*\* RAW M 26-KK 1 - ET LIB -- R5 LDS Rev - \$175 \*\* Raw M32.5-aa INDE/FUDE - R4 - 10-11 O/C CLIP - \$145 \*\* Raw M31.1-gg.1 - ET LIR R3 - Fine - \$165  
 Rich Nadeau; 1 Lisa Ave; Raymond, NH 03077. Email: [NPJR2@earthlink.net](mailto:NPJR2@earthlink.net). Ph: 603-244-2500 (Up to 8 PM Eastern Time only)

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Todd Gredesky PO Box 102 Woodbury, NJ 08096  
 856-803-6102(cell) email: [njtodd7@hotmail.com](mailto:njtodd7@hotmail.com)

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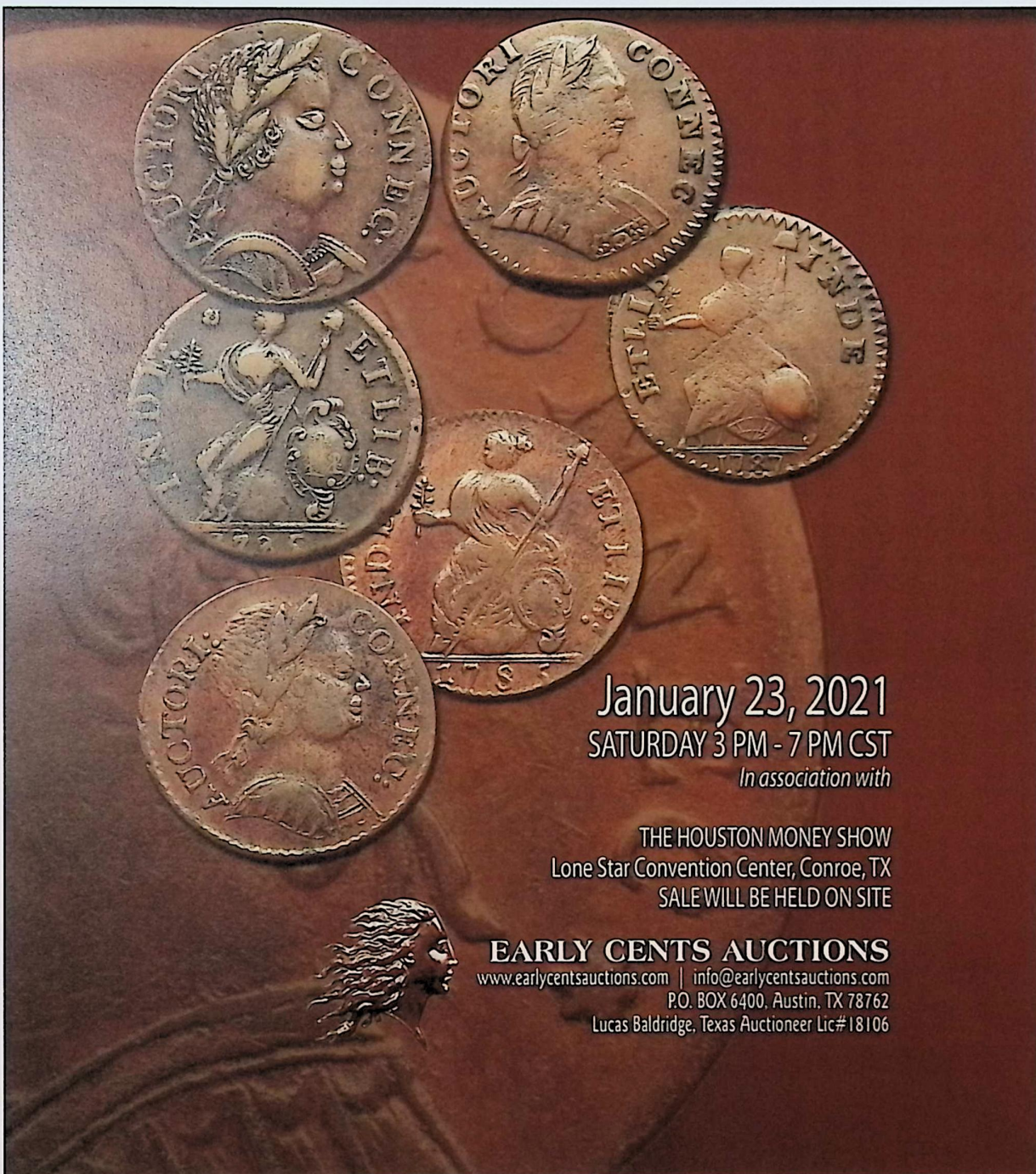
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